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WEEKLY

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GST INCLUSIVE

MUSCAT SEES RED

Millwall and Socceroo hard-man Kevin Muscat will miss the rest of the English season after suffering a knee injury in their FA Cup Semi-Finals win over Sunderland a few weeks back.

Known for being one of the most hated players in the United Kingdom, Muscat was, believe it or not, hurt in a heavy clash with Sunderland's George McCartney at Old Trafford.

It was obvious that from the start of the game, the former South Melbourne defender was targeted.

His rash challenges and many tiffs with high profile English stars have branded Muscat with the name – 'The Wicked of Oz'.

One match that Muscat will miss is the FA Cup Final against Manchester United.

"His season is finished, which is an exceptional shame," Millwall assistant boss Ray Wilkins told the club's website. "He has played some exceptional stuff this year and is going to miss out on what should be a wonderful climax."

"Kevin saw the surgeon and from what the surgeon can read off the scans it is not as bad as first thought. In saying that, he is not going to know the full extent of the damage until the surgeon goes in."

"We're all keeping our fingers crossed for him and please God, he can come out of it in a couple of months and not the longer period once anticipated."

The Australian battler has received quality reviews from his Millwall faithful especially from former English international and team-mate Dennis Wise.

Wise knew that Muscat had the ability to lead a team and through time has been one of his keenest admirers.

Not many soccer followers regard the injured Millwall defender as a stand-out player however his determination to win the ball at all costs speaks for itself.

He certainly puts credit to the word wearing his heart on his sleeve.

Millwall will sorely miss the services of the Socceroo who is keen to put the boots on in Australia's two friendly match hit-outs against Turkey.

Farina Keeping Busy

Read on Page 7 with an exclusive interview by Peter Damalas

OLYMPIC TO CARRY ON

By Mark Stavroulakis

One of Australian soccer's most traditional clubs Sydney Olympic will hold an extraordinary General Meeting for its members on the 2nd of May in a bid to rescue the club from extinction.

Two motions will take place at the "Greek Macedonian Club" in Sydney about the future of the famous Blue and White side that has won two championships since its induction into the now defunct NSL in 1958.

Having gone under the guises of Pan Hellenic, UTS Olympic and the Olympic Sharks, the club has gone through a number of make-over procedures in accordance to keeping the club afloat in Australia's elite competition.

Its been stated that motion one will carry out whether Sydney Olympic will participate at the highest level of competition run by the SOCCER NSW Federation in either a new proposed Eastern Seaboard competition or an upgraded Premier League. While two will be the election of a new board of directors to be held at the earliest time possible so as to allow the new board some time to prepare a team for the new competition.

Sydney Olympic have made it quite clear that they want to be part of some type of competition next season but need to discuss these agenda's in order of completing some form of format for a new team.

After the NSL shut its doors in the completion of the NSL Finals, all clubs played their last season as a team in Australia's elite league – although some might resurrect in the new 8-APL team competition.

Sydney Olympic, along with Sydney United and Marconi will venture through possibilities of keeping their soccer clubs in tact with fielding a side in a respective competition.

Parramatta Power and the Northern Spirit have called it quits for now although the Spirit are still working on their new merger with a Central Coast consortium.

Its believed that the Australian soccer public will get to hear the official names of the 8 APL clubs in June/July this year.

A second league, the 'Eastern Seaboard', competition is also going through the motions as being a possibility for a second division to be part of a new Australian soccer structure.

SOCCER NSW'S bid for its inclusion amongst the 8 looks odds on favourites to land the only Sydney allocated spot while a Victorian Federation led side too could fulfil the vacancy in Melbourne.

All eyes will be on the final spot that could be given to any new side from around the nation.

Finally, a pre-tournament league will kick-start next January featuring the new 8-APL sides.

Tigers Shock Demons

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SOCCER NSW

8 Page NSW Lift-out

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BY DANIEL KUZIOW

The big news week is obviously Tim Cahill, whose strike put Millwall into the FA Cup Final for the first time against Manchester United.

Cahill followed up Paul Ifill's initial strike to side volley a difficult ball past Sunderland's Mark Poom.

It was Cahill's 12th goal of the season, but arguably his most important and means he will now square off against the like of Roy Keane and Paul Scholes in the Cardiff showdown.

"I watch a lot of Paul Scholes and Roy Keane because they're both such unbelievable players," the newly capped Aussie told ManUtd.com.

Tim Cahill: Relishing the prospect of lining up against Manchester United.

"Scholes' late ghosting runs into the box are his trademark and he also works very hard during games.

"He seems very quiet away from the pitch and you don't really hear much from him except when he scores, and that's usually every week!"

Meanwhile Millwall's assistant manager Ray Wilkins has challenged Cahill to fulfill his potential in the wake of the club's famous week.

"He's a very talented young man and I sincerely hope he fulfils the potential that he has," Wilkins told BBC.com

"He could play in the Premiership easily. I believe scoring midfield players are an extreme asset to any side and he's very good at that. It has been fairytale stuff for him.

However the fairytale ended for him last Thursday when he was sent off in the Lions' nil-all draw with Cardiff.

★ ★ ★ ★

English clubs Newcastle United and Middlesbrough are reportedly tracking Parma midfielder Mark Bresciano.

Marco Bresciano: Being tracked by a number of Premiership clubs.

The 24-year-old Australian has impressed at Parma since moving from Empoli in July 2002.

Scouts from both Boro and Newcastle are reputed to have spied on Bresciano in recent weeks - most recently during Australia's 1-0 friendly victory over South Africa at Loftus Road last week.

Newcastle are looking for a long-term successor to Gary Speed in the role of midfield enforcer, while Boro are already eyeing another Aussie, Leeds striker Mark Viduka.

Given the financial scandal gripping club owners Parmalat, Bresciano to leave the Ennio Tardini Stadium for considerably less than the £10m Parma paid for him.

Bresciano has been in great form this year and from reports in Italy have put Marco amongst one of the best rising players this year.

★ ★ ★ ★

Current Young Socceroo striker Jay Lucas last week stated to *ABSW* from France that his trial with Stoke City all but ended and returned to the Saints once more.

Wanting to get match fit after a knee injury that side-tracked him for most of the season, Lucas was going to use Stoke as a club in getting back his match fitness.

Southampton again have come to the aid of Lucas and have given the former Wollongong Wolves star assistance in getting back in tip top shape.

Known for his sheer size and aerial ability, the Saints will be looking towards furthering his contract come end of the season.

★ ★ ★ ★

It seems Stan Lazaridis is a favourite for the media up at Birmingham, because every week it seems there is news on him.

This week his manager Steve Bruce has come out and said that Laza has developed into a genuine Premiership player.

"He was not a regular in the First Division. But to be fair to him he has done as much as anyone in the Premier League this season," Bruce told Teamtalk.com

"The Premier League suits him better than the hurly burly of the First Division.

"When I arrived he wanted to be an out and out winger. He was really low on confidence but since then he has done really well and is now my first pick every week because of consistency.

"The other part of his game is that now he is prepared to go and work defensively.

"He has been winning tackles, far post headers and all sorts of things.

"The only thing is that I wish he had told me that he could play left back months ago.

"He didn't even tell me and it was only after I went to watch England-Australia and saw him playing against [David] Beckham that I found it.

"I asked him how many times he had played left back. He told me 'about 45 times for Australia'.

"He is enjoying himself and is popular in the dressing room and is now branching out."

★ ★ ★ ★

Rangers boss Alex McLeish has confirmed that club captain Craig Moore will not play again this season.

The Australian has endured an injury-ravaged campaign and now needs surgery to cure a persistent knee problem.

With the Gers having little left to play for McLeish has decided that it makes sense for Moore to go under the knife now and be fully fit in time for the start of pre-season training.

"Craig needs a clean-up operation and this could be done within the next couple of weeks," he told the club's official website.

"It means that his season is effectively over, but it means that he will be completely clear for the start of pre-season."

"Our medical people have been liaising with the Australian national team's medical staff and have agreed with the same course of action," McLeish told his club's website.

"We sent him to a specialist and it was decided that he should have a tidy-up procedure."

★ ★ ★ ★

Still in Scotland, Hearts defender Patrick Kisnorbo faces the prospect of a club versus country row if he is selected for the Olyroos as they turn out in Athens.

Kisnorbo turned in a brilliant display in their recent match against Greece and if selected for the games proper will miss Hearts' pre season tour of Australia and the first few league games for season 2004/05.

Patrick Kisnorbo: Faces a potential club versus country row if he is selected for the Olyroos.

"The whole of July there is a camp for the build up to the Olympics and then in August there is the competition itself.

If I was to be selected then it would mean missing the pre-season and the start of the league," he revealed to Scotsman.com.

"The squad hasn't been announced yet so I don't know what is going to happen but it's definitely a bit of a headache for me.

"There's good points and bad points involved with going or staying. If I was to go it would mean being part of the Olympic Games and playing against the rest of the world, but it would mean missing out here so it's a bit of a catch-22 situation.

"I don't think the club can stop me if I want to go so it's up to each individual to decide what they want to do."

However Hearts manager Craig Levein admitted that should Kisnorbo travel to Athens it could jeapordise his spot in the future;

"We will worry about that situation when it comes round but I would think it's more likely to cause Patrick a problem than me. If somebody else gets in when he is away and plays well then he could struggle to get it [his place] back."

★ ★ ★ ★

Another Olyroo prospect Adrian Madaschi spoke this week admitting how he would love to go to Athens despite the conflict which may arise with his club Partick Thistle.

Madaschi was another involved in the recent match with Greece and told Partick's official site that he has his sights set on Athens; "It was good from a defender's point of view.

The defence was very solid and we played very well and some really good football and perhaps were a little unlucky not to score a goal.

However not to lose a goal was good and we didn't give them much in the way of chances in front of goal.

I would love to be involved in the Olympic Games, which is the pinnacle of everyone's career and I would love to be a part of it but we will have to wait and see if the coach has me involved in the final countdown. I know that I may miss about a month of the Scottish season but I am sure that people will understand that this is a once in a lifetime chance and I really would love to be involved in Athens.

It comes at a good time for me after signing a new deal, and I hope that I can take my game on at both club and country over the next year or so and I have to pleased with the way that my football is going at the moment."

★ ★ ★ ★

Empoli's Primavera attacking midfielder Nick Stavroulakis was one happy youngster last week after he heard the news of his inclusion into Ange Postecoglou's Young Socceroo squad currently in France for their first training camp.

Speaking from the lovely town situated in Tuscany, the former AIS graduate was delighted that the Australian coach still kept in touch with his progress in Italy.

"It was a huge relief to know that Ange still has his eyes on how I am going in Italy. So many times, youngsters travel abroad and no-one here's from them again," he said.

"I was over the moon when I got a call from ASA saying that I made the squad in France. This is where all the hard work starts as I'd love to represent Australia again next year in Holland for the U20's World Cup. It's always been a dream of mine to wear the Green and Gold, and one thing's for sure, I'll always put my hand if when the offer comes."

Stavroulakis was involved with the Joeys two seasons back. With his contract coming to an end at Empoli, the Serie A club is doing all they can in wanting to re-sign the Sydneysider however various offers from rival Serie A clubs have also appeared.

"At the moment I'm concentrating on making the final Young Socceroo squad. Doing well in France is my first goal. When I return, then I will see where I'll be at, but at this stage all should be well. It will be good to see all the old faces from Australia, as I haven't seen most of these guys for more than a year. Many players in the squad are AIS boys so it will be good catching up with them."

Nicholas' partner in crime at Empoli, fellow Aussie Frank Lagana too has had a solid year with the squad but injury has forced him out of the Young Socceroos squad. A niggling ankle injury forced Lagana to say no to France but hopes that he will be included in the next U20 camp.

"It was frustrating as I wanted to be part of the squad in France. I thought I'd be ok but I went through a few medicals at Empoli and I was told that I could make my injury worse. I had no choice but to ring ASA and pull out. I know that I will be more determined to hopefully get another chance at the next camp."

★ ★ ★ ★

Soccer's Civil War is over, says Kyle Patterson

Exclusive Story By Joe Russo

Former SBS television journalist and current Media Manager at Soccer NSW, Kyle Patterson, says soccer's Civil War is over and those still fighting the old battles should come to their senses.

Speaking on Sunday Night Soccer on radio 98.5 FM (every Sunday in NSW at 10.00pm) after the recent NSL Grand Final, Patterson said it was important now that the soccer family came together as one and got behind the new hierarchy at the Australian Soccer Association as it endeavours to implement a brand new national league.

"People should understand the moment in history that has arrived. This is a once in a lifetime opportunity with Frank Lowy and John O'Neill, and the idea is to unite the soccer family. Soccer NSW is certainly doing its bit," he proudly stated.

"The civil war is over in Australian soccer. It has been fought at a great cost and for some people we've wasted ten years of our life on it. Let's get over it. Save our energy and ammunition for the real fight. The real cause is for a unified soccer family to fight for air time on TV and radio and [newspaper] space from the other sports and that is very much what Soccer NSW is doing."

In his new role at Soccer NSW Patterson is excited about the challenge he faces in getting soccer some better media coverage. On the Friday prior to the Grand Final between Parramatta Power and Perth Glory, a leading capital city newspaper gave the game a half-page coverage some 13 pages into their sports section.

Kyle Patterson sees a green light with the new SOCCER NSW venture into the APL next season.

"I guess that is a barometer of how the league has been allowed to slip and that's not something that has occurred in the past 12 months but rather the last five or six years," he said.

"The media coverage has been lamentable but don't blame the soccer writers for that because they have to go to their editors and mount a case and say that my game deserves more coverage. How could these guys do that?

"We haven't given them a compelling enough case to go to their editors and say give me the back page or the second inside sports page."

Patterson is disappointed with has transpired in Australian soccer in recent years but clearly sees CEO O'Neill and the new ASA as most capable visionaries for the code in Australia.

"John O'Neill has been given a big mandate to come into our game and look at the big picture which involves two things," he told listeners.

"Firstly the Socceroos. O'Neill is totally committed to making the Socceroos a regular feature of our soccer diet and [hopefully] we will see them, either on television or at home, at least once a month. "Secondly, we need to have a national competition which is on television and exciting for the fans who watch the games."

The new eight-team league is being mooted by many as the panacea for the ailments affecting soccer but Patterson is realistic about the challenges that face the code. In particular he cites the marketing of soccer as a great challenge.

"Our game, the world game, is a beautiful, natural game for athletes to play. Our problem is purely in the marketing of the game," he said.

"We have come into a very difficult environment because the AFL, rugby union and rugby league are all very strong. The new league must put excellence into the equation. No longer is it good enough to say we must be a little bit better than last year. We have to be radically different."

The poor attendances in the NSL in recent years, with perhaps the exception of Perth Glory, must also be addressed. In a world dominated by marketing, which portrays the glamour of various sports, soccer too has to compete on a level playing field.

Crowds want entertainment, value for money and a top class product. They will not accept second best and neither will the television networks and all this is not lost on Patterson who, for 18 years, reported on soccer for SBS.

"The sports fans have voted with their feet. They have stayed away in droves from our game for the past five to ten years. We have to go back and look at what the fans want which is a must-see product with showbiz flair, personalities and good football," he said.

"We are so overdue for reform it is not funny. It is a tragedy that it took the league to get to the point that it was a basket case before we realised what had to happen.

"We have had ridiculous situations where every year clubs like West Adelaide, Morwell Falcons, Collingwood, Carlton to name a few, have gone bust and some even mid season."

In his new role at Soccer NSW, away from the SBS cameras, Patterson is committed to ensuring that soccer receives the best possible coverage especially in NSW in all forms of media.

However, does he miss SBS after such a long period of service? It was a position that many would see as ideal – travelling the country and the world covering the game.

"It was a career change for me. I worked for SBS for 18 years and most of those years were spent working on some wonderful, wonderful soccer journeys. I was blessed to do that and I have many life-long friends at SBS," he stated.

One particular Patterson story that is well remembered was back in 1993 when he went searching for Diego Maradona, arguably the greatest player of all time, at Auckland airport en route to Australia for Argentina's World Cup elimination match with the Socceroos at the Sydney Football Stadium.

"Diego was doing his duty free shopping. We got warned by the Argentine team manager that Diego was shopping for his kids so don't disturb him.

"So we waited, waited and waited and the plane was almost about to take off but Diego was still shopping, because when you're Diego Maradona you know the plane won't leave without you.

"Finally he came out of the shop and we asked him very politely could we have an interview. His reply was no problem but only two questions."

Sunday Night Soccer airs weekly at 10.00pm every Sunday on radio 98.5 FM in NSW.

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ADELAIDE OUT AND ABOUT

Adelaide United will begin its recruitment drive later this month when the Australian Soccer Association releases its expression of interest document for the new Australian Premier League according to the Adelaide Advertiser.

President Basil Scarsella said that although United would have until the end of May to put in its formal bid, it would not wait until then to begin signing players.

United and Perth Glory have the luxury of knowing they are certain starters for the APL. United is expected to sign up to six new players, including record scorer Damian Mori, for the new league.

Most of the current 23-man squad and coach John Kosmina are expected to be retained. "Once we know the detail in the terms and conditions we can basically begin the process of signing players and coaches," Scarsella said.

Meanwhile Australian U23 coach Frank Farina has invited Adelaide United midfielder Freddy Agius and Sydney Olympic defender Iain Fyfe for trials at the AIS. Farina is favourably looking at both players subject to health and fitness testing.

"I am thrilled to be given the opportunity to be part of the Olyroos squad, hopefully I will pass the fitness tests and I can join the boys on the road to Athens," Agius told the United website. "Being part of the Olympic Games is like a dream come true, I hope I can do enough for Frank to select me.

Agius excelled with Adelaide after signing on late in the season.

His dynamic performances sparked interest from the Olympic coach that in turn gave him the chance to strut his stuff for hopefully the Australian squad.

The camp kick starts on the 26th April and concludes on the 13th May.

Its expected that 20 or so players will take part in this selection process with Agius being headlined as a possible player for Farina's squad.

Finally, plans are being drawn up to expand the capacity of Hindmarsh Stadium. The proposal is to increase the seating capacity of Hindmarsh from just over 15,000 to 18,000 in time for the start of the new Australian Premier League.

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South sign ring-ins for China tour

South Melbourne will fulfil their commitments to a tour of China, despite the club being close to financial meltdown.

South coach Stuart Munro has managed to recruit players from outside the club, such as Craig Deans (Newcastle), Alex Tobin (Northern Spirit) and Robbie Middleby (Newcastle), for the tour.

"We were contractually obligated to tour there in our NSL pre-season in 2001 (late September) but we cancelled because of 9/11," South president Peter Mitrakas told *The Age*.

"We were going to go the following year, but then the SARS problem came along. Then they threatened to sue us if we didn't make the trip, so we have to fulfil the obligation." South coach Munro said, "The club is not paying the players any more, so those who are coming with me to China will be playing for the experience and expenses on the trip.

"From a football point of view it should be very interesting, as we will get good quality opposition and competitive matches."

Alex Tobin has joined the touring South Melbourne squad to China.

Young Socceroos Lose Two

The Young Socceroos kicked off their 2005 World Youth Championship campaign with a 2-1 loss to French 4th Division team Armentieres in the northern French town of Erquingham last week.

The Young Socceroos are in France for a four-game tour as it commences it's build-up for the 2005 edition of the tournament that will be played in nearby Holland.

Played on a chilly evening, the Young Socceroos started well with Newcastle United's Stuart Musialik and South Melbourne's Vince Lia combining to set up Billy Celeski to opening the scoring in the 14th minute.

The goal boosted the confidence of the young Australian team and they maintained their lead till the break.

However the more experienced Armentieres, which is a sister club to French 1st Division side Lille, hit back in the second half with goals in the 54th and 71st minutes.

The Young Socceroos play their second match on Saturday 10 April in the Belgium town of Boussu against UNFP Belgium, which is a Select Team comprised of out of contract professional footballers.

Meanwhile the Young Socceroos lost its second successive match of its four-game tour to France and Belgium against UNFP (Association of Unemployed Professional Footballers) Belgium in the town of Boussu in Belgium.

South Melbourne's Vince Lia has had a solid start to the Young Socceroos friendly matches in France last week.

The lone goal came late in the match and was against the run of play, after the young Australian team generally outplayed their more experienced rivals.

While the loss was disappointing for Ange Postecoglou and his team, they can a lot of positives from the game, as they dominated for long periods and retained ball possession consistently.

Captain for the night, former Wolves striker Jay Lucas, had a ferocious volley smothered, while Kristian Sarkies (pictured above) almost scored a deserved equaliser in the dying minutes, but his direct free kick was inches off target.

Standouts for the Young Socceroos were Stuart Musialik in midfield and former Under 17 captain Jacob Timpano in the heart of the defence.

The Young Socceroos next match is on Tuesday night (April 13) against 1st Division side RC Lens Youth Team. Lens is located only a short distance from the Australianâs base in Lievin.

The team's remaining match itinerary is:

v Racing Lens u-23, Lievin - April 13

v Paris St Germain u-23, Paris - April 19

The Oceania World Youth Championship Qualifying Tournament is currently scheduled to be held next January with the 2005 FIFA World Youth Championship to be held in The Netherlands between 10 June - 2 July 2005.

SOCCERWOMAN

BY JANENE MAR

YOUNG MATILDAS TEAM ANNOUNCED FOR OCEANIA U19 QUALIFIERS

The 18-member Australian Women's U19 Team (the 'Young Matildas') to contest the OFC (Oceania) U19 Women's Qualifying Tournament was named on Saturday by National Women's Coach Adrian Santrac.

The winner of the tournament, to be staged in Papua New Guinea later this month, qualifies for this year's FIFA U19 Women's World Championship.

The Young Matildas selections were made during the current training camp at the Australian Institute of Sport in Canberra, where 24 players have been in contention for the final cut since assembling last Monday.

Two players, Leah Blayney and Selin Kuralay, have already represented their country at senior level, both having made their Matildas debut during the recent Australia Cup and Oceania Olympic Qualifiers.

Kuralay is also one of three – along with Elissia Canham and Emma Davison – who were members of the successful 2002 Young Matildas Team which competed at the inaugural FIFA U19 World Championship.

The remainder of the eighteen hope to make their first international appearance during the Qualifiers this month. All but two of the team have played at least one season in the WNSL (national league).

The six other players who have been in camp this week remain in the wings as standby players in case of injury or illness.

"The selection of these eighteen players has been made through a thorough process which has included last July's national championships, performances in the WNSL, and the two camps this year – a combination of all these things," said Assistant Coach Alistair Edwards.

"These players are thoroughly deserving of their selection, but we have also made it clear to everyone that the door is still open to those players knocking on the door. It's been a very very difficult decision to cull some players. The depth of the squad is very encouraging."

The selected Young Matildas remain in camp for final preparations before travelling to Papua New Guinea on 19 April.

Three nations will contest the 2004 OFC U19 Women's Qualifying Tournament to be held 20-24 April, Australia kicking off its campaign on 22 April against Solomon Islands, followed by their match against hosts Papua New Guinea on 24 April.

The 2nd FIFA U19 Women's World Championship is scheduled for 10-27 November 2004 in Thailand.

The Young Matildas were successful in the inaugural U19 qualifiers in 2002 in Tonga, defeating New Zealand in the final of the seven-team event. Australia went on to finish an impressive 5th at the 2002 FIFA U19 Women's World Championship in Canada, after going down in extra-time of their quarterfinal match against Brazil.

YOUNG MATILDAS TEAM - 2004 OFC U19 WOMEN'S QUALIFYING TOURNAMENT :

Players (18) :	Program	Hometown	Pos	DOB
Julia BAZI	NSWIS	Sydney	D	20/10/85
Ellen BEAUMONT	QAS	Brisbane	D	14/07/85
Leah BLAYNEY	AIS/NSWIS	Blue Mountains	M	28/10/86
Elissia CANHAM	QAS	Brisbane	D	29/04/85
Kim CARROL	QAS	Tully	D	02/09/87
Renee CARTWRIGHT	NSWIS	Crookwell	F	03/02/86
Amy CHAPMAN	ACTAS	Albury	F	12/02/87
Lauren COLTHORPE	NSWIS (Northern)	Newcastle	M	25/10/85
Emma DAVISON	QAS	Sydney	D	04/05/85
Leena KHAMIS	NSW	Sydney	F	19/06/86
Selin KURALAY	QAS	Melbourne	F	25/01/85
Kylie LEDBROOK	NSWIS	Sydney	M	20/03/86
Alison LOGUE	NSWIS (Northern)	Newcastle	GK	06/03/87
Claire O'SHEA	VIS	Bendigo	GK	02/12/85
Alannah REED	QAS	Innisfail	F	28/01/88
Sally SHIPARD	NSWIS	Wagga Wagga	M	20/10/87
Nicole SOMI	ACTAS	Canberra	D	19/01/87
Jenna TRISTRAM	NSWIS (Northern)	Coffs Harbour	F	28/10/86
Standby Players (6) :				
Nenita BURGESS	SASI	Adelaide	M	29/09/85
Yasmin FAVRETTI	NSW	Sydney	GK	12/12/85
Katie HILDER	NSWIS	Sydney	F	25/03/85
Briony HOLCOMBE	NSWIS	Central Coast	M	27/02/86
Kara MOWBRAY	QLD	Brisbane	D	07/05/85
Christina PAPAGEORGIOU	SASI	Adelaide	M	06/05/85

MATILDAS CAPTAIN SELECTED IN FIFA WOMEN'S ALL STAR TEAM

Matildas captain Cheryl Salisbury has been selected in the FIFA Women's All Star Team to play world champions Germany in Paris next month.

FIFA, the world governing body of soccer, announced the 18-player team on Wednesday night, a collection of some of the world's biggest names who will feature in a major part of FIFA's Centennial celebrations.

Defender Salisbury, from Newcastle, has long been an instrumental member of the Matildas, and her impeccable record speaks for itself. Salisbury is the only Australian to have played in every women's senior FIFA event for which Australia has qualified – the FIFA Women's World Cups of 1995, 1999, and 2003, and the Sydney 2000 Olympic Games. The 30-year-old is also Australia's all-time female top international goalscorer with 28 goals to her name, and her 93 caps makes her our second-highest capped female.

Salisbury has also played professionally, most recently for New York Power in the American WUSA, and for three seasons during the mid-1990s in Japan's L-League.

"I'm very excited to be one of the players for the FIFA All Star Team, and to play alongside and against some of the best players in the world, all on one field," said Salisbury.

"I was also really excited to see my teammate from New York Power and World Cup player Shannon Boxx is in the side. It will be a fantastic opportunity to be part of such a monumental occasion celebrating FIFA's Centennial."

The FIFA Women's All Star Team versus Germany match will kick off a magnificent showpiece of football on 20 May 2004 at the Stade de France in Paris. Their game will be followed by the men's match between France and Brazil.

FIFA Women's All Star Team –

Goalkeepers – Caroline Jonsson (SWE), Memunatu Sulemana (GHA).

Defenders – Cheryl Salisbury (AUS), Corinne Diacre (FRA), Charmaine Hooper (CAN), Daniela (BRA), Wang Liping (CHN), Marwa Ibrahim El Hawat (EGY).

Midfielders – Shannon Boxx (USA), Marta (BRA), Malin Mostrom (SWE), Stephanie Mugneret-Beghe (FRA), Homare Sawa (JPN), Naima El Awady (ALG).

Strikers – Victoria Svensson (SWE), Marinette Pichon (FRA), Mercy Akide (NGA), Abby Wambach (USA).

Coaches – Marika Domanski-Lyfors (SWE), Elisabeth Loisel (FRA).

A NATIONAL CUP?

By Ted Simmons

Wanted — people with time to bring two visions into existence.

For years, I have campaigned, probably along with many others, that Australian soccer needs two areas in which to excite public interest and to enable more matches for the Socceroos.

So why can't we have a Pacific Cup and why can't we have a genuine Australian Cup along the lines of England's FA Cup.

Many of the officials and others with whom I've spoken have replied too hard, too difficult to organise, not enough interest, too costly — all negative! Where are the positives in today's world and where are the workers.

Let's take a closer look at the positives.

A Pacific Cup to embrace all nations whose coastlines touch on the Pacific Ocean would bring in the United States, Canada, Mexico, Costa Rica, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, Chile and possibly others in South America, New Zealand, the Oceania region and maybe Japan, China. The mind boggles at what type of competition this could provide.

When I last mentioned this as a possible to the then Canadian national coach, he jumped at the idea and said "Let's do it." However, it was easier to say than get it done.

At home, it was doom and gloom as usual and all the old arguments were trotted out to show why it couldn't be organised. No money, travel is too expensive, what do the players think (that was a change), how could the draw be arranged. Sponsors have generally been available for big affairs. They want maximum publicity, television exposure and crowds and they know they will get them for a special occasion...look at Australia against Manchester United or the FIFA World Select or the Olympic Games final in Sydney. How they would rub their hands over a possible double-header in Sydney involving Australia and maybe Argentina or Japan or the Untied States.

With the airlines continually advertising for paying customers, do you think they would ignore the possibility of flying some of the world's highly-rated teams around the Pacific for a knockout Cup.

Not enough interest? Look at the possible fixtures that could be drawn. Home matches would be payed by each country with a two-leg system of home and away and how would you keep the crowds away if Australia was dawn at home in a quarter-final or semi-final. As for the players — just ask any of them would they like to play an international.

Organisation, arrangement, fixtures, sponsors, travel, players — it just needs people prepared to make it work.

This would be an appropriate time for the Australian Soccer Association to consider a Pacific Cup and form a special working group to look at the possibilities. The group could involve specialists from outside the ASA in conjunction with Association representatives. Let's use people with the expertise in these areas rather than burden the ASA staff with additional work.

And could we look for retirees in a voluntary capacity who would get pleasure out of doing this rather than the "how much will you pay me" group.

There are Cups already played amongst Pacific nations but they are restricted to certain areas and do not embrace the entire region.

Now to the second suggestion of an Australia-style FA Cup.

First of all the usual negatives — Australia is too big, how would you organise a draw, who'll pay for it, can we get a sponsor, will the crowds attend, will there be enough teams.

For sure Australia is a big country, unlike England where travelling distance is not huge. So the first step is to consider a regionalisation plan, for instance something similar to the Champion of Champions in NSW or the High Schools Cup started by Bill Turner.

Each State could call for entries from any city or country team desiring to take part on a home and away basis or straight knockout in the early rounds. An entry fee will be necessary to go towards the winning teams but travel/accommodation will be at the expense of each team.

Properly promoted, there should be plenty of interest and local media in country areas especially should give full support as they have done in the past with local sport.

When each State has reduced the number of teams to a certain figure, possibly by round three, then the lower divisions of State leagues come in, with State Premier League and National League making their appearance the following round.

The possibility of the under-dog playing the big boys has always had an attraction as has been shown in World Cup soccer and others sports. This should not be any different. In the current FA Cup, First Division and Second Division teams have caused the usual upsets and it could be the same in Australia with a Perth Glory drawn against St George or Blacktown.

Again the question of travel can be looked at with the airlines in a promotional role to transport teams interstate, the same with sponsors looking at an Australia-wide competition and trains and coaches for shorter distances.

As to costs, clubs are accustomed to fund-raising and the prospect of being in a National Cup should attract volunteers willing to help raise the needed finance. In this way, costs to the organising body can be kept to a minimum part from the promotion and publicity essential to the fixtures.

Grounds and referees should not provide a problem with night matches where necessary to avoid clashing with regular local fixtures. But a sensible draw would ensure clashes do not occur and that there are few interruptions to local competitions.

In previous years, there have been Cup competitions. The States have had their own versions, the National League had its knockout Cup and there was a type of Australia Cup played in the 1960s but it did not involve all States.

The first time a National League was proposed was in the 1960s and the idea was dismissed as too difficult, too expensive and all the other negatives. It took nearly 12 years of perseverance before the NSL was born.

A Champions League scenario could be the best thing for Australian football - how great would it be to see an Aussie side lift this trophy?

Expectation of the Cups starting next year is unrealistic but an Australia Cup could be in two years because the States already have a groundwork established for such competitions.

Maybe I'm a dreamer and the two Cup scenarios will be too hard to organise. But I do know that until someone sits down and really looks at and discusses the proposals we'll never know whether it is possible.

Maybe it's too radical for officials to understand the concept and its possibilities and they prefer to concentrate on local issues by using the "Too Hard" basket.

History has many stories of missed opportunities by people who were not prepared to look at a new prospect or take a chance.

Is Australian soccer doomed to fall into that category or will some willing workers step forward and make the two Cups dream come true.

RONNY SMITH GETTING BUSY

By Mark Stavroulakis

It seems as though Ronny Smith just can't keep his hands still.

The former head AIS coach has been working over-time in culminating one of the best Internet sites that could take coaching to a new level.

"I'm still in the process of creating a website that will work as an information centre for players and coaches from a coaching point-of-view".

Thoughts and opinions and research at the highest level will be seen on the site and also comparisons made between how the English Premier League game differs from our National League this year is also on the cards.

It doesn't stop there for Smith who also has a video set to come out very soon.

"It's been a personal interest of mine during my time in Malaysia that I produce advanced coaching material in the development department. Through my time, I get asked by many parents how I could provide lessons on various coaching aspects about the game. What more better than something visual? I've been training myself on computers for the past ten years through surveys and statistics, a video analysis of what I can do to help people out, if they want it, has been yet another goal of mine that should be achieved very soon".

Away from his personal goals, Smith has yet to see any developments made for the Australian technical directors job that he was favoured to land last year.

"I've obviously expressed my interest for this but at this stage ASA have yet to make this position available. I guess with all that's happening with the new APL starting soon and new appointments to the board, it's been one of those things that could be unearthed down the track".

At this current stage in every Australian player and coaches path, uncertainty has been raised to the highest level.

July is the expected date for the new competition to start however no announcements have been made on which eight-teams will feature in the revamped league.

The former Johor coach though has been active with this current situation.

"Its funny you ask this question as I was approached by a club from Malaysia but knocked it back. I'm hoping that the new APL gets in order and then we can see what may lie ahead, as I would like to coach in the new league. The interest is obviously there, but like some of the players jetting off overseas, a plan must be seen in the next few months on what's to expect".

Ron Smith: Currently working on putting out a helpful website in the development of coaches.

Due to Ronny's vast experience in the Asian sector being a coach at Johor and having travelled and done surveys around the large continent, Smith explained that it could be hard for the new APL to entice the Aussie stars in coming back for the APL.

"In my opinion the players need to do what they can in making a living for themselves and if that means leaving Australia then so be it. I'm more concerned about whether the players that have made the trek already want to come back? I know that we will lose some these stars, as the money is quite good over there. Some could make the move back here, but with the wide gap open until the new season, most of the players will carry on with their playing duties elsewhere".

Currently working on his personal interests in further educating the coaches in our sport, it should not be too long until we see Ron Smith shouting from the dugouts in or new APL league next season – or so many people hope so.

BRANKO IN THE DARK

By Mark Stavroulakis

Only days after SOCCER NSW announced their bid in wanting entry towards next year's APL, came the news that current technical director at Australia's best Federation Branko Culina was favoured in landing the coaches job.

As stated on SBS' sports program last Tuesday evening, Culina was inundated with a number calls after it was said that he was leading the charge for the coach's role.

"You really have to speak to SBS about that one as its been the first I've heard on this issue".

Culina refuted claims that he was going to be the next coach but did state his excitement about the bid from SOCCER NSW.

"Like everyone else I am very excited about this new venture. I want this game to kick on for the better and I believe that this Federation can do this. What people need to do is put their self interests aside and work together in making this venture work.

Yes I am employed by SOCCER NSW but that does not mean I will be the coach or involved in that manner. I'm delighted though seeing that this is a first step in hopefully promoting the game in a better way as it needs to move on in the right direction".

"First I've heard of the SOCCER NSW coaching job": SOCCER NSW Technical Director Branko Culina.

AIS DOMINATE ONCE MORE

By Mark Stavroulakis

Its been no surprise to see that Australian soccer's Institute of Sport based in Canberra has again grabbed the plaudits of moulding future Socceroos with eleven graduates making the Young Socceroo squad currently in France.

Since its induction in 1981, the AIS have been at the forefront in nurturing young talent.

One of its two broad aims being identifying and developing young talent for the National U20 with possible progression to the Olympic and Socceroo squads has worked to a tee.

The man that has made it all possible for the current batch of stars currently on show in France has been head-coach Steve O'Connor.

Having spent a good 14 years at the AIS, the former Socceroo defender has seen many talents pass through his reign but it has been all thanks to him and the professional set-up run at the Institute.

The Young Socceroos are taking their first steps in their campaign for the 2005 FIFA World Youth Championship with a two-week camp in France.

Ange Postecoglou has selected a strong 20-man squad with the local boys getting the thumbs up with 16 hailing from Australia while four are based overseas.

Notable absentees from this camp has been Newcastle United striker Jobe Wheelhouse who has pulled out due to an ankle injury as has Empoli's Primavera striker Frank Lagana.

Spase Dilevski has also missed out due to his commitments with the Olyroo squad but should feature in the final team come Oceania qualifying time in January next year.

Goalkeeper Adam Federeci, defenders Mark Milligan, Liam Lilley, Keegan Wolfenden and Nikolai Tapor-Stanley, midfielders Stuart Musialik, Nick Stavroulakis, Chris Tadrosse, Bill Celeski and Kaz Patafta, and finally striker Nick Ward have all been products of the AIS.

What the new heavies at ASA must know is that they have a jewel of a system on their hands so more exposure must be heeded towards the AIS.

Frank Lowy and John O'Neill have got their hands tied up in a few knots with the new APL set to start next July, but one thing's for sure, the youth system has been of top quality.

If we are to progress as a powerhouse in the world game then it all must start from the early beginnings of development.

Australia does have one of the best rates in creating players, but this trend must continue, as it is one of many factors that will ultimately have a bearing on how soccer will go in years to come.

A new soccer revolution has been put forward by Australian soccer's new fraternity – let's hope that the development of the AIS program is untouched, it needs no touch-ups as it only produces the best.

Here's the current group of graduates who's names could be heard in years to come in our National sides:

Noel Bahnsen, Jim Downey, Alex Rojas, Chris Grossman, Cameron Watson, Greg King, Nick Corssley, Matthew Deegan, Sam Gounder, Michael Marrone, Peter Eleftherakis, Brett Studman, Foad Comandari, David Thornton, Christopher Nunes, Kaz Patafta, Shaun Ontong, Bradley Porter, Daniel Holmes, Troy Herefield.

The 2002 AIS Squad has eight players in the current Young Socceroo squad currently in France.

SOCCER NSW REVOLUTION

By Mark Stavroulakis

Think about what the possibilities of an advisory panel such as former Socceroo captain Johnny Warren, ex NSL Chairman Remo Nogarotto, Perth Glory owner Nick Tana, current Adelaide United Angelo Picca and current managing director of 303 advertising Jim Davis can do for a side in the new APL?

Let's be realistic, with one Sydney spot up for grabs in the new Lowy-led 8-team competition, Soccer NSW has sown up the spot.

Bidding should really stop now, SOCCER NSW President Tom Doumanis will lead a six member bid team alongside fellow SOCCER NSW directors Ross Kelly, Bobby Clark and Rob Laws.

The list does not end there.

Former Parramatta Power General Manager Angela Travis and current Media man Kyle Patterson will spearhead the SOCCER NSW campaign in claiming that vital Sydney spot.

It seems as though the puzzle of why Patterson left the SBS to start off his career at the powerful Federation has been put in place.

Current SOCCER NSW Technical Director Branko Culina has been rumoured in playing a role as head coach of the squad but he's heard nothing from this.

Ex-Parramatta Power coach Nick Theodorakopoulos's name has also been mentioned with the inclusion of Travis, but in Doumanis' view, its still early days.

Parklea's headquarters knew of this proposed bid and wanted the best to promote their new campaign.

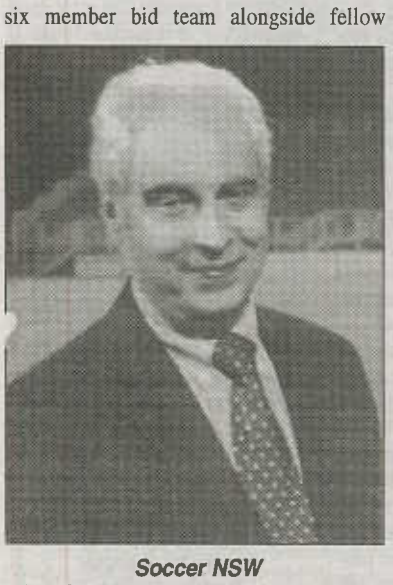
It is believed that the Marconi Stallions have also officially put in a spot for the new APL but who are we kidding here?

If its any indication on how Adelaide United went through the past season, then the new NSW venture should work a treat.

"This will be the people's team, a team that the soccer family of NSW can call its own", quoted Doumanis.

"This is a once in a lifetime opportunity for Australian soccer to build the high quality, exciting and entertaining national competition that the game desperately needs,"

It looks certain that the bold move for Nick Politis' Sydney Blues side will not go any further after the late SOCCER NSW bid.



Soccer NSW President Tom Doumanis is leading the charge of a side in the APL.

GLORY IN THE DARK?

Glory chairman Nick Tana is pondering his future at the club.

Perth Glory coach Mich d'Avray admits there is no guarantee he will lead the team in next year's competition after the side lifted the NSL trophy in the last ever Grand-Final against the Parramatta Power last week.

"I think what's got to happen now is I sit down with the chairman, directors, with the board, and find out what their objectives are for the next season," he told the West Australian,

"What are the goals? What are the plans? What does Perth Glory want to achieve next year and the year after?"

D'Avray praised the board and his players for an outstanding season but the future at the club looks rather bleak with even a hint of no return for the former Ipswich star.

Meanwhile Perth Glory owner Nick Tana is hopeful of keeping his championship winning squad together.

Its expected several Glory players will seek short-term deals in Asia as they wait for the new competition to kick-off in 15 months time.

"It may be that we would keep everything intact," Tana told the West Australian. "You will always lose one or two players, that's inevitable. "But our preference is to build on what we've got."

Tana was up beat about his role at the club after a proposed syndicate had pointed to a new side in Western Australia.

From his recent comments, Tana surely wants to be part of the new set-up next year.

It is expected that favourite sons Damian Mori and Bobby Despotovski will not wear the Glory colours next year.

In Despotovski's sheer style at the last ever press conference in Sydney Bobby stated, "I don't know yet, when I find out what will happen in my career next year I'll be sure to tell you. Right now I must concentrate on my family,"

VSF want role in new Melbourne club

Victorian Soccer Federation president Manny Galanos has confirmed they will provide capital to a consortium bidding to enter a Melbourne-based team in Australia's new club competition.

"Our intention had been to facilitate a bid, but it does appear now that the ASA wants state federations to hold a stake and most people I have spoken to think it's a good idea," he told The Age.

"Whether that's 10, 20 or 25 per cent, I don't know, but I don't think it would be more than 25 per cent. "I would hope that the framework would be in place within three months, by July or August."

The Victorian soccer federation have jumped on the same bandwagon as the Soccer NSW in wanting to put a side in the APL.

Meanwhile, another Victorian consortium, the 'Melbourne Victory' have emerged with News Limited executive Alen Rados as its spokesman.

"We've got advertising and marketing experts already on board and we've got members of the group who have travelled overseas and had a close look at how the top overseas sporting organisations operate. This has been a work-in-progress for a number of years but the environment wasn't right until now," he told the *Herald-Sun*.

FARINA TO KEEP NATIONAL TEAMS TICKING OVER

All eyes on Frank Farina: The Socceroo and Olyroos coach will certainly have his work cut out in the next few months.

By Peter Damalas

With the final edition of the National Soccer League all done and dusted, the attentions of the soccer loving public now turns to the Australian national teams.

The Socceroos embark on the 2006 World Cup campaign mid-year, while the Under-23s squad prepares for the Olympic Games in Athens in August.

In the past, the national league and the efforts of Australians playing for European clubs has dominated these pages, but now it seems that international fixtures both on these shores and abroad will attract a great deal of attention.

In what was the first step in the preparation for the Olympic Games, all locally based Olyroos came together last week (Wednesday and Thursday) for a fitness testing camp conducted at the Australian Institute of Sport.

This was used as a data collection tool, and the information obtained about the players, who have just finished the domestic season (or in the case of defender Andrew Durante, have recently recovered from injury), will be used to help the coaching staff plan and prepare for a medal tilt.

Another camp and a friendly match is on the cards for the end of April.Coach Frank Farina highlighted the need for a structured program over the next few months, and cited the preparation to January's Olympic Games qualifying tournament as a poor precedent.

"The lead up was completely inadequate, we only played two games beforehand," he said.

"We have a very good program on the table which needs to be ratified by [AustralianSoccer Association]."Farina certainly does not underestimate the importance of keeping the Australian based players fit, considering they make up a healthy percentage of the possible squad that will travel to Athens.

While the Olyroos are undoubtedly the main focus for the next four months, securing fixtures for the senior side is seen as crucial for Australia's hopes of qualifying for Germany in two years time.

The two match home series against Turkey in May is being treated as a warm-up for the opening rounds of qualifying, at a venue yet to be decided.

"This is a fantastic opportunity for us to compete with a quality side, one of the top teams in the world," Farina said.

This year has seen Farina take charge of the Olyroos qualifiers, the match in Venezuela and the recent fixture with South Africa in London, while assistant coach Graham Arnold was in charge of the Olyroos in their draw with Greece on the same day.

The Olyroos produced a credible result against the highly fancied Greek side who boosted a number of current European stars.

A nil-all draw was a result both Arnold and Farina were happy with but more work is expected to come through in the next few months.

The coach was pleased with the performance and result against the Bafana Bafana, but stated that an improvement was needed in time for the next challenge.

"I set the standards very high. I thought it was a very good performance but I still believe that we can play better," he said.

Farina stated that "the best players will always be selected" for international fixtures, but it is unclear at this point what the make-up of the Socceroo squad will be like, given that most of the players that are considered to be among 'the best' will be coming off gruelling club seasons in Europe.

The commencement of the Australian Premier League, scheduled for July/August 2005, has put many locally based players in a bind as to how they continue their playing careers. Given the time off national league soccer (9-15 months), players may feel that their chances of representing Australia have been jeopardised.

The issue of having an Australia 'B' side, made up of local players with fixtures arranged at home, has resurfaced this week (see below).

Farina said that he is all for this idea, but acknowledged the challenges involved in setting up this two-tiered system.

"I think this is a good idea as it gives the players some opportunities. But finding opponents will be very difficult, we may only manage to play matches against club sides," he said.

And with a full schedule this year, plans for a second team may have to wait.

Australia will play off for the OFC Nations Cup in October should they finish in the top two of the Oceania World Cup qualifying group, while September and November will also see the team in action, most likely in Europe.

Farina believes that the game in Australia is heading in the right direction, but was quick to encourage those involved to "be patient."

"Things don't just happen overnight, we have to expect a bit of pain," he said.

Whatever the case, Frank Farina will be one busy man in the next few months with having a holiday the last on his 'to do' list.

Farina will be hoping that Germany 2006 will be our year the Roos break their World Cup hoodoo.

CAHILL NOMINATED FOR FA AWARD

Socceroo and Millwall star Tim Cahill has been nominated for a prestigious FA award thanks to his outstanding performance in his club's FA Cup Semi Final.

Cahill, who recently fulfilled an ambition by making his debut for the Australian national side as a late substitute against South Africa, has helped book his side an unlikely FA Cup Final place and a meeting with Premiership giants Manchester United

Cahill however did have a bad end of the week when he was red-carded against Cardiff in their nil-all draw.

Two players from Manchester United and another Millwall player have also been short-listed by The FA to fill the last place in The FA's first ever 'Team of The FA Cup', run in partnership with UMBRO.

Cahill along with defender Darren Ward have been nominated from Millwall, while Manchester United's Wes Brown and Paul Scholes are also in the frame.

Lion's Midfielder Tim Cahill scored the winner for Millwall as they overcame fellow Nationwide side Sunderland 1-0 and defender Darren Ward was instrumental in denying Sunderland the possibility of an equaliser.

The FA now wants fans to decide the overall winner by voting on-line at www.TheFA.com and votes must be cast before 9.00am on Tuesday, 13th April. Fans clicking on their chosen Player of the Round now also have the chance to win tickets to the FA Cup Final. A winner will be drawn from all entries and will receive two tickets for The FA Cup Final. FA Head of Football Development Trevor Brooking is urging fans to get behind the players.

"The four players performed magnificently in securing their teams an FA Cup Final place and shot at FA Cup glory at the Millennium Stadium in May. The FA Cup is a magical competition and it's performances like his that live long in the memory of the world's greatest domestic cup competition."

The Player of the Round will win £3000 worth of UMBRO football kit and equipment for the local school, club or organisation of his choice. He will also receive an UMBRO gift of kit player package including XAI boots and training apparel as well as an engraved salver.

If Cahill is successful in clinching the fans vote ahead of the Manchester United pair, he will take his place alongside other Player of the Round winners such as Liverpool's Bruno Cheyrou and Arsenal pair Jose Antonio Reyes and Freddie Ljungberg in The FA's first ever Team of The FA Cup. Elite members of this team from previous rounds will be afforded The FA VIP treatment at this year's FA Cup Final and will be honoured on the pitch before the Cardiff crowd.

Other winners include:

James Curley (Oldham Town), Steve Guinan (Hereford United), Jeff Minton (Canvey Island), Lee Trundle (Swansea City), Paddy James (Lymington & New Milton), Darren Currie (Wycombe Wanderers) and Ashley Sestanovovich (Scarborough).

GRANT LEE: "WE NEED A SOCCEROO B TEAM"

By Peter Damalas

Sydney United coach Grant Lee has called for an Australia 'B' team to be arranged in the not too distant future.

The possibility of having a national team based entirely around players plying their trade in the National Soccer League, was introduced last year, and Socceroo coach Frank Farina has supported the idea.

While discussing the impact that the break from national league soccer might have on the sport at home, Lee argued in favour of having a second national team, not unlike the Australia A cricket side, that plays its matches on these shores.

"The players here need to have more competition for places. It would be nice to have the carrot in front of you, from a players point of view, as there is not a lot for the players playing domestically to strive for," he said.

"I see this as a stepping stone. We should be playing more internationals against sides in Asia, up to 12-14 matches a year."

Lee highlighted the fact that there has been a lack of information about a set commencement date for the new Australian Premier League, and said that players feel insecure.

"It is a long time between seasons, what are we going to do in the meantime?" he said.

"Players are looking elsewhere in order to subsidise their income. A lot of guys have taken off, to Malaysia, Japan and even Belgium, and I can't blame them for going as they are looking after their finances."

But the former coach at the Australian Institute of Sport offered a warning to players who are joining new clubs.

"Playing season to season is tough. Mental burnout is a key issue, and senior players need a short break from the psychological strains," he said.

"While it is important for athletes to do something active and keep the body ticking over, I feel that they also need to get away from the game so they can rebuild their reserves and enthusiasm."

For young players such as United midfielder Labinot Haliti, the next few months will be characterised by confusion as they attempt to weigh up the options before them.

The 19 year old, who played his first full season with Sydney United after transferring from Olympic in the off season, stated that moving overseas may be the wrong option.

"Some players don't know what they are getting into when they go overseas. Players make mistakes and are unsure about who to trust.

"We have to do something in order to keep fit. The lower league is an option, there are good players across the park, but the standard is not like the NSL. It is a long season for those involved in the top six especially, and we need a break," he said.

Haliti's coach at Sydney United is hoping to establish a fitness program for the players in the meantime.

"I would like to run some programs that focus on strength and conditioning, agility, speed, technique and tactical training. I feel that this is more conducive to the senior players in the long term.

"We will try to keep the squad together. The younger players need to learn and strive, and playing in the state league can be detrimental to the development of these players. This club is very strong, and we have a tight unit with some battle hardened players, but it is difficult for clubs to formulate squads at the moment," Lee said.

Parallels have been drawn between soccer and rugby union, with the 8 team APL format set to follow the principles that govern the Super 12 competition.

But Grant Lee insisted that success is still a number of years away."Rugby was a dying game until the Super 12 resurrected it. There was a complete focus on one direction, and plans for this competition began in 1986. But with soccer it is different- at junior grassroots level the game is very strong.

"My biggest concern is that some people behind the scenes may not have soccer at heart, and are not working for the longevity of the game. They are trying to make it as difficult as possible for clubs to get involved [in the APL] as they are trying to de-ethnicise the game. Unless there is a change in mentality, we will always struggle," he said.

The one team per region format will hit home hard in Sydney, which had five teams competing in the final NSL season.

The Sydney APL franchise will no doubt pick up the best talents in New South Wales, and can be expected to attract the interest of some players currently on the fringes in Europe.

An idea of importing a second Socceroo squad should be on the cards insists Grant Lee.

"At the end of the day, the best players will be picked, and this makes it tough for young players," Haliti said.

Letters to the Editor

HAS ASA LOST ITS MARBLES?

Dear Sir,

Firstly, I would like to praise the 'Australian and British Soccer Weekly' as a whole especially their dynamic chief editor Mark Stavroulakis for his effortless hours of devotion in promoting the world game to the many thousands of soccer lovers around Australia.

Secondly for his brilliant initiatives in its ENDEAVOUR'S OF MAKING AWARE Mr Frank Lowy and Co at ASA that the proposed the APL 8-team competition scheduled to start in June/July in 2005 is perceived by the general soccer public and the players to a big a BIG JOKE (hope you read this Mr Lowy and Co) thanks to SBS "The Joan of Arc's of Australian Soccer."

At a recent poll conducted by SBS Toyota Sport on Sunday the 4th of April the question put to Australia's soccer supporters was "Do you approve of the proposed APL 8 team competition?

"Guess what Mr Lowy and Co (83% said = No) (17% said = Yes) are you taking note of this?

On the 15th of December 2003, I forwarded Mr Frank Lowy a 7 page report voicing my opinion on the restructuring of the NSL.

Here are some abstracts from that 7 page report:-

Quote:

• **Restructuring of the NSL**

The duration of the new League

It is my personal opinion that the new league which by all accounts could be launched as yearly as the 2004/5 season should be composed of a 16-18 team not of a 10 team competition as suggested within the soccer hierarchy and there are several reasons for that:

Firstly because the soccer public have been starved for far too long of a decent lengthy season similar to our European and our South American colleagues (lets not imitate what the Scottish FA did by playing home & away TWICE what a disaster) a 30-34 weeks not including the finals would give the starved supporter "plenty to chew about" so to speak, the main objective here Mr Lowy is to maintain the momentum of the soccer public interest for the world game as longa s possible.

Secondly potential sponsors would be easier to attract to the new league knowing their product would gain a far better exposure for a 16-18 team league (30-34 weeks) rather then to a 10 team league (18 weeks) excluding the finals.

I feel a 10 team composition would be a disaster for the code (see the attached article of the ('Australian & British Soccer Weekly') under the heading 'dressing sheds' subtitled: Tanners slams a 10 team push.

There is talk in the soccer circles that a 16 or 18 league would be unproductive, or an warranted or the quality of players are not around to embrace a 16 or 18 team league!

You can rest assured Mr Lowy that the moment criteria is officially known you will be inundated with new clubs eager to be part of the new league.

On the players side well as you stated yourself we won't be able to entice the likes of Viduka or Kewell but you can rest assure that there are over a hundred players playing abroad with first division experience that would jump at the opportunity to play in the new league providing it has flair, be reputable and most importantly provide financial guarantees which as we are well aware has not been the case in the past.

The new APL should be composed of a 16-18 team

REGIONS-REPS:

New South Wales: 4 is justifiable if you consider that Sydney has an population in excess of 4 million people by having 4 team in the Sydney region it will bring back the classic derby of the past such as A.P.I.A.- Marconi or A.P.I.A.- Olympic (a crowd of 27,250 turned up in 1964 is today still a club record).

Victoria: 3 is also justifiable, including of a team from the Asian Community should that interest materialise it would add a new image, colour to the league, open opportunities for Asian investments, television exposure etc, within the Asian Region.

Northern NSW: 1 Newcastle is always been the Mecca of Australian soccer not having a representative in the region would be a travesty of justice (who can ever forget Ken Boden's Newcastle United)

Central Coast: 1 The Central Coast region should be encouraged to have a combined representative in the area. Mr Lowy have you forgotten the great South Coast United (under Jim Kelly's reign?)

ACT: 1 The ACT region warrants a representative providing they can get their act together!

South Australia: 2 Would be good to see as with the NSW to have two representatives in the region there is talk of Con Makris wanting to join the league for some time a derby between Adelaide United v Adelaide Galaxy given the right promotion in would attract crowds in excess of 20,000.

Western Australia: 2 Similar to NSW & SA derby's are good for the game the Fremantle region have been toying sith for years a local Derby between the Perth Glory v The Fremantle Dockers given the right build up could draw crowds of 25,000-30,000.

Queensland: 2 Brisbane Lions once again has shown interest in joining the APL should be encouraged to apply providing they meet the criteria, as with NSW, SA, WA derby's can be beneficial for the local soccer.

Gold Coast: 1 A Gold Coast representative should also be invited considering the massive investments by the Japanese from that region, anyone can tell you that whenever a NSL is invited to play an exhibition game with a local side it always draw crowds between 3-4,000 you can imagined playing in the new league the crowd it would draw!

Asian region: 1 A representative from the J League or the Korean League would create closer ties with the Asia Confederation local sponsor will be easier to attract since their product would have a far greater exposure.

There is talk of inviting another Kiwi team what a joke what can we gain in such a venture what benefit did we gain in having a Kiwi team in the NSL, other than been crowned the NSL's wooden spooner's for the last two seasons, we should only be interested in recruiting winners not losers.

As mentioned several times above by adding an extra team in QLD, WA, SA, it will not only create rivalry, it will also increase public support similar to Italian derby Inter Milan-AC Milan or the English derby Manchester United-Manchester City.

The idea Mr Lowy is to take game to the people!

Consideration should be given to the current NSL clubs especially if you take into account the significant contribution these clubs have given to Australian soccer as a whole such as South Melbourne, Sydney Olympic, Marconi, Sydney United etc. The ASA should perhaps encourage these clubs the opportunity of a complete overhaul so as to meet the criteria should they be considered for the new premier league.

UNQUOTE:

I would like to ask the gentlemen at the ASA on what are ex NSL players expected live on for the next 15 months? And what of the supporters around Australia of this beautiful game are they expected to be deprived of top soccer for the next 15 months! You have got to be kidding gentlemen!

Already the top players of now defunct NSL have started to look overseas (Ante Milicic of Parramatta Power) has fixed himself a professional contract with a club in Malaysia and many more will follow.

Some simply cannot wait that long and have decided to retire (Bobby Despotovski of Perth Glory) and of the poor old soccer supporter well he will simply turn his back to the local soccer and watch the EPL or Italian, Spanish League on Optus or Foxtel as no soccer lover on the globe can be starved of top soccer for such a long period of time!

Of John O'Neill appointment a master stroke a fear not, can someone at the SAS tell Mr O'Neill that you cannot compare oranges (Union) with apples (Soccer) and what may have been successful with Rugby Union I am referring to "The Super 12" that does not necessary mean that will work with other codes! (soccer)

Should this should fail in resurrecting the so called "The Sleeping Giant" what was first perceived with last year's Frank Lowy appointment as soccer's Messiah could became soccer devil's advocator!

Claudio Barbaro
A supporter of soccer radical changes

WELL DONE GLORY

Dear Sir,

I must say that the way Perth Glory came back to win their second championship in a row was absolutely incredible. Here we had a team who were totally ripped to shreds by last Sunday's opponents, and lacking the results against Parramatta, but put on an excellent showing in difficult circumstances.

They clearly deserved their victory in the grand final. Throughout the match they looked the more determined outfit, punishing in defence and useful up front. They should have had the match well and truly sewn up before full-time.

I think for me a key moment was when Perth won a goal kick after a period of sustained pressure from the Power. As the defence were taking their positions, defender Jade North did a slight pumping of the fist, not enough for the cameras to capture. This was a telling moment for me, I had an inkling that the away team, and underdogs, would come away with the trophy.

Mich d' Avray deserves congratulations for his ability to building a consistent squad with some new additions at the start of the season, and the way Perth played last Sunday in the wet indicates the intelligence of the coach. Well done!

Kirk Malley.
Homebush, NSW.

15 MONTHS OFF - WELL DONE?

Dear Sir,

How on earth will the new APL competition attract the interests of soccer supporters fifteen months after the conclusion of the NSL? With very little domestic action until the early stages of 2005, the soccer community will be totally lost, and I will not be surprised to see similar crowds attend APL matches as the ones we have been used to for years.

ASA are taking a huge risk here, and although I would love to see the new national league take off with a bang and give the rival football codes a run for their money, the signs have not been promising so far.

The players themselves, whose qualities and talents will attract interest, are mostly planning to move overseas. Parramatta Power, the best attacking team in the country, will be disbanded and distributed elsewhere, and this is sad because soccer needs entertainment, and this squad provided it.

By July/August 2005, I think we will find that players are settled wherever they are, and it will certainly take a lot of convincing to bring them back for the sake of the Aussie game.

Jules Livingston.
Queanbeyan, ACT.

GET LOST HARRY WE HAVE BETTER PLAYERS!

Dear Sir,

Step aside Kewell, the star player for the Australian national team is undoubtedly Marco Bresciano. The Parma man has come on leaps and bounds this season, where he has been one of the top performers in the Italian Serie A, and for the Socceroos.

He has added a new dimension to the central midfield, with spark and creativity. Having both Okon and Skoko in the centre was good in the past from a defensive point of view, but Australia desperately needed some attacking action from behind the strikeforce, to ease the pressure off the wide men.

Bresciano represents the true spirit of Australian soccer. He is daring in his approach play, confident and composed on the ball, and gives his all when tracking back to assist his defence.

And he has helped Mark Viduka as well by providing him with the kind of service that he thrives on, and the big guy returned the favour by setting up Bresciano's match winner against South Africa last week.

With Tim Cahill waiting in the wings, Farina has great depth in midfield, along with the likes of Josip Skoko, Simon Colosimo and Vince Grella as the defensive shield in the middle of the park.

Eileen Bentley.
Cherrybrook, NSW.

DIDULICA STILL AVAILABLE!

Dear Sir,

I read your publication every week and really enjoy it.

I'm just concerned that Frank Farina has let go Australia's next goalkeeper in Joey Didulica, who wanted to play for Australia but was ignored by Farina.

I heard that he is injured and may not play against Turkey which may give Farina time to win him back. Only time will tell if it is a mistake to have lost him to Croatia.

N. Edwards (Victoria)

SOCCEROOS FOCUSED

Dear Sir,

The Socceroos look like a team that is incredibly focused on qualifying forthe world's biggest football tournament. There is a great sense of unity among the players which is quite rare in international teams.

While there are definite stars, like Kewell, Viduka and Lazaridis, no one is irreplaceable, and this can only help Farina,s cause.

The coach believes in sticking to his guns in terms of his selection of similar teams in every match, and I think he should be supported in this. It is vitally important for the players considered to be in the starting XI to have experience in playing with each other, and this can only happen in regular matches.

Aloisi and Kalac may feel hard done by at the moment with their lack of game time, but if they have patience, like Bresciano, they will come to play a bigger part in the next couple of years.

Go the Aussies! They are emerging as a truly excellent team, one which all sports fans should adopt as their own.

Alex Bright.
Richmond, VIC.

DERBY'S LONG GONE

Dear Sir,

The notion that the national league needs local derbies is absolutely absurd, in my opinion. While Australian fans may wish to feel the excitement of the world's great derby matches, such as River-Boca, Milan-Inter or Rangers-Celtic, Australia offers a totally different environment. Look at the sheer size of the country.

If we are serious about having a national competition, we need to have clubs located around the country, and given the quality of the NSL at present, I feel we can only support 8-10 teams in an elite league.

So, sad as it may sound, Sydney can only support a maximum of two teams. If we look at the history books, since the last grand final hosted by a Sydney club in 1993, teams from across the country (Perth, Wollongong, Brisbane,

Melbourne and Adelaide) have won the championship, while Sydney clubs have struggled to even qualify for the top six series.

The passion that existed when Olympic played United or Marconi, such a key in yesteryear, simply disappeared, and with average attendances of around 2,000, who could in their right mind suggest that more local derbies is what is needed.

The NSL divided the soccer loving public according to ethnicity. Greeks supported Olympic, Italians supported Marconi, it was as simple as that.

What the new APL hopes to create is clubs that appeal to all soccer supporters, without any lines of division.

John Jenner.
Ultimo, NSW.

HAVE SOMETHING TO SAY?

VOICE YOUR OPINION TO *ABSW*
Either via Email or by Mail.
1-9 Glebe Point Road, Glebe 2037 or email absw@foreignlanguage.com.au
This week's open forum – Should there be a Second Division in Australia?

Green and Gold Army Series

Green & Gold Army
http://www.ggarmy.com

SOCCERNOOS

The Green and Gold Army are pleased to announce that we have secured an **exclusive block of seats** for the upcoming internationals against Turkey in Sydney and Melbourne.
To access seating in the Green and Gold Army section you must request so when purchasing your tickets by quoting the code GGARMY from the relevant ticket agencies - **this offer is not available on-line, only over the phone or across the counter.**

Ticketing

Friday May 21 Aussie Stadium 7.30pm
Tickets on Sale Now
TICKETEK (02) 9266 4800
*Quote 'GGARMY' in Bay 1/2/3

Monday May 24 Telstra Dome 7.30pm
Tickets on Thursday April 8
TICKETMASTER7 Across the counter directly
We are hoping to also make this available over the phone – check ggarmy.com for updates
*Quote 'GGARMY' -
Sydney $67 (adult)
Sydney $40 (concession)
Melbourne $77 (adult)
Melbourne $45 (concession)
NB These are B Category seats (cheapest) behind the goals

Travel

The GGArmy are also hoping to organise bus trips from Adelaide to Melbourne, Melbourne to Sydney and Canberra to Sydney, if you are interested in any of these trips than please e-mail turkey@ggarmy.com

Functions

We will also be organising pre and post match functions for both matches so stay tuned to GGArmy.com for details closer to the matches.

Merchandise

The GGArmy will have a range of merchandise (Hats, T-Shirts, Flags etc) available to be purchased at the pre -match functions and also at the game. Online shopping facilities will be available shortly, so stay tuned for the latest GGArmy merchandise.

As always seating in the GGArmy is not restricted to GGArmy Members but if you are purchasing seats with non-registered fans please direct them to ggarmy.com to register FREE.

Socceroos return, but at a price

By Mark van Aken

The ASA this week announced the ticket pricing for the upcoming home series against Turkey in Melbourne and Sydney and it isn't pretty reading for thrifty Socceroos fans.

Tickets are available in only two categories; A or B, with cheapest seating for Adults in Melbourne set at $77 and $67 in Sydney. The pricing strategy is seemingly a result of the high cost of bringing out the Socceroos and quality opposition, which the Turkish side certainly is.

Turkey were one of the surprise packets of the last World Cup claiming third place and have maintained their high standards, currently claiming ninth spot in FIFA's World Standings. The rise Turkish football has been pronounced in recent times, riding on the back of club sides like Galatasaray enjoying success in European competition and no doubt luring such a team to Australia would not be cheap.

This hasn't stopped considerable disdain amongst the Australian soccer fraternity in relation to the high costs, many claiming the ASA owed a certain good will factor to the fans after decades of mismanagement and perceived fleecing of the public.

Adding insult to injury is the fact that the only concession discount offered to patrons is for children Under 16 and Aged Pensioners, even then the costs of seating are as much as $45. It is common place for sports to offer discounted seating to Full-Time Students, Senior Citizens and Health Care Card holders, such discounts are not available for either of the matches.

A source close to the ASA reasoned that getting the Turks down under would not be cheap. "There will be certain criteria that Turkey would have laid out to make the trip happen". No doubt Australia's own stars would have also needed a nice carrot to lure them home during what is essentially their holidays.

Compared to other national team fixtures the prices are high, but most teams don't have the 'event' factor of these Socceroos fixtures considering the plethora of stars of European soccer from Australia's own Kewell, Viduka and Bresciano to Turkey's Hasan Sas and Hakan Sukur to name a few.

Given that it is the first time the Socceroos have played on Australian soil since their 1-0 World Cup Qualifying win over Uruguay nearly 3 years ago, the ASA will be banking on the novelty value that a full strength national side brings. Added to this is drawing power of the visitors, with Melbourne and Sydney both boasting large Turkish communities.

Whether fans like it or not, such pricing for future fixtures may be unavoidable without significant sponsorship to off-set the immense cost of transporting teams and elite venue hire. Fans hoping to see the Socceroos at home more often are likely to be disappointed with all but a couple of players involved in leagues on the other side of the world, getting more than a smattering of post-season matches is improbable.

Unlike Australia's other high profile national teams, the ASA is not the players pay master and as such the parameters around Socceroos matches will always be different than others. The ARU control the Wallabies purse strings, Cricket Australia control Ricky Ponting's and his team and as such they control the shots, the ASA don't have, and never will have that luxury.

The ASA have an uphill battle convincing the public that the Socceroos first team will in fact make the trip home before the fans hand over their money cart blanche. The game is littered with fixtures that promised so much and delivered little.

The most glaring of a string of such disasters included a match against Brazil where Harry Kewell and Ronaldo were used as the center piece of the matches marketing, only to see both players miss out through injury. The promoters were forced to refund monies to ticket holders and throw open the gates to the public for free, crowds were large but losses were immense. To add insult to injury it was the same match where Ned Zelic so famously quit the Socceroos after being.

Come what may, the games offer a unique opportunity for Australian fans to see a top 10 nation up against its own and no doubt Frank Farina's men will enjoy plenty of support come the last week in May.

South's SOS falling on deaf ears

By Mark van Aken

What could only be described as a disappointing crowd amassed at Bob Jane Stadium last Sunday in an effort to raise funds for the beleaguered South Melbourne Soccer Club.

South's CEO Mark Patterson was upbeat despite the showing. "We have raised something like $35,000 today and that coupled with the corporate dinner we are close to $300,000 so far with plenty more functions to come".

Patterson's optimism aside, the mood was a sombre one amongst the South faithful that numbered '500-1,000' on the day but seemingly no more than 250 at any one time. Fans were confused with the mechanism for donations to rescue the club, titled 'Friends of South Memberships'.

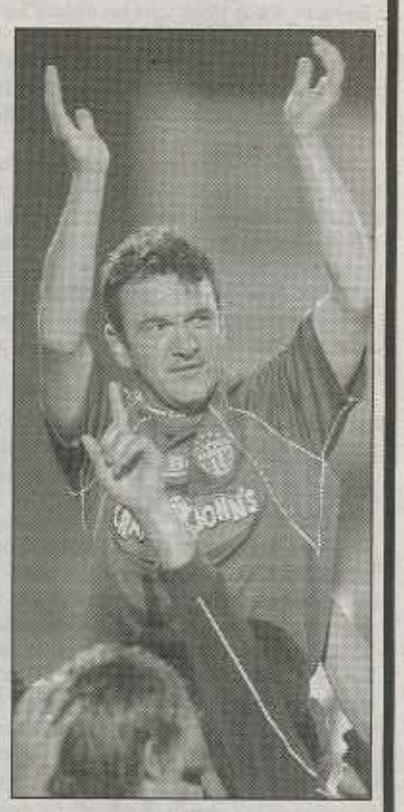
Talk amongst fans was that the 'memberships' offered purchases entrance to the clubs matches in the Victorian Premier League next season. Upon further examination this was not the case.

The day was hosted by George Donikian and saw a host of speakers from Entertainer George Kapiniaris to local politicians and passionate members pleading for fans to dig deep into their pockets to save the club.

Unfortunately for the lakesiders, they were preaching to the choir, with almost all on the day pledging their support. It was the tens of thousands of absent fans that the message needed to reach, as the clubs financial plight seems to worsen with every passing day.

South Melbourne was rocked recently by news that only one Victorian team will have a place in the revamped national competition next year. This has created an immediate debt servicing burden as the club essentially has no guaranteed forum to continue its core operations, if it does not raise immediate liquidity the club may be forced into administration or in a worse case scenario, liquidation.

"We have several other events coming up from corporate dinners to Mehmet's Testimonial, which is pencilled in for the 14th" explained Patterson, still optimistic the clubs target of $1 million within a matter of weeks can be reached.



Mehmet Durakovic will be having a Testimonial Match in the next few weeks at Bob Jane.

ITALIAN SERIE A

ITALIAN AFFAIR

By Joe Russo

It is hard to believe that AC Milan, the defending champions, would be eliminated from the Champions League but that is exactly what happened last week when Deportivo La Coruna won 4-0 at home.

After winning the first leg 4-1 at the San Siro it appeared that AC Milan would coast to the semi finals but the football miracle that was required happened in La Coruna.

AC Milan, Arsenal and Real Madrid were all eliminated last week in what turned out to be the most incredible ever week in the Champions League.

This time last year there were three Italian teams in the semi finals but this year there are none. Congratulations go to Chelsea, Monaco, Porto and Deportivo for their achievements which are surely beyond even their own wildest dreams.

Italy's only claim this year in the Champions League is Chelsea coach Claudio Ranieri. The likeable Ranieri really needs to secure a major trophy if he is to hold onto his job at Chelsea.

★ ★ ★ ★

If Rupert Murdoch's Sky Italia network has its way then we will see the Serie A played over three days next year; Saturday, Sunday and Monday.

Traditionally the Serie A has been a 3.00pm Sunday afternoon ritual in Italy but in recent years, to satisfy television requirements, they have played matches on Saturday afternoon, Saturday night and Sunday night.

Sky Italia aims to take this one step further with matches to be played at lunchtime on Sunday, just like the English Premier League does on a Saturday, and on Monday night, just like the American Football's traditional Monday night fixture.

Sky Italia will soon take its proposal to the Italian Federation. If approved the nine Serie A matches will be spread as follows: one each on Saturday afternoon, Saturday night, Sunday lunchtime, Sunday night and Monday night, with the remaining four in the traditional Sunday afternoon slot.

Monday night would appear to be a problem because of the midweek Champions League and UEFA Cup fixtures but in England they manage to work around this and still play on a Monday night.

It has also been done in Australia with the AFL and rugby league where there are even Friday night fixtures which have been a part of those football codes for many years.

Moving the Serie A around the extended weekend is a blow to tradition but in today's world television revenue is too important to ignore. Subscribers to pay television especially need to be enticed with an abundance of football available over the weekend.

★ ★ ★ ★

Javier Pizzo is not exactly a household name but if events had turned out differently he could have continued his career which may have led to bigger and better things. Or so he claims.

In an Argentine court Pizzo is suing Juventus's Mauro Camoranesi who in recent years has declared his loyalty to Italy and played for the Azzurri.

Pizzo was a player for Alvarado and he blames Camoranesi for a triple break of his knee that he suffered in 1994. It was in a match against Aldovisi, Camoranesi's then team, that this alleged incident occurred.

Pizzo claims that his career was ended after the operation and that he was on the verge of being transferred to a First Division club in Argentina but for that incident. It is just another sorry tale of football injuries being relived in courtrooms around the world.

★ ★ ★ ★

Enrico Ameri passed away last week aged 78 and older readers would recall him as the voice of Serie A football on Italian radio for some thirty years until his retirement about a decade ago.

Ameri set the standards in broadcasting and was always the caller who was assigned the main game of the weekend. Only nine months ago Sandro Ciotti aged 76, another legendary soccer radio caller in Italy, passed away but he, unlike his colleague Ameri, was working almost until the end.

Ameri and Ciotti were a formidable duo and household names in Italy. The former at the main game and the latter at the second best game of the round brought the 'calcio' to life in many Italian households on a Sunday afternoon and even in far away places such as Australia thanks to the old 2EA, now called SBS radio.

Radio has always been the medium that brought you the immediacy of the matches. One vividly recalls that on Sunday afternoons the townsfolk would park their car up along the local mountain road in order to get a clearer radio reception to hear the football. The main voice they listened to was that of the great Enrico Ameri.

★ ★ ★ ★

NSW readers can tune into 98.5 FM on Sunday nights at 10.00pm for all the latest soccer news locally and abroad with myself, Joseph Carlucci, Mark Stavroulakis, Robert Scarselletta and Stuart Jones.

JUVENTUS 1
LAZIO 0

There was little to choose between the sides for much of their encounter at the Delle Alpi stadium with Simone Inzaghi wasting a good chance in the first half for Roberto Mancini's side and Gianluca Zambrotta going close for Juve.

A draw looked a fair result but two minutes from the end the Lazio defence left David Trezeguet unmarked and the French striker rose to head home a Mauro Camoranesi cross to give third-placed Juve the points. The defeat means Lazio drop down to fifth.

AC MILAN 1
EMPOLI 0

After their disastrous midweek exit from the Champions League, leaders Milan struggled to beat lowly Empoli and needed a late penalty to secure the win.

Empoli keeper Daniele Balli was sent off for an 84th minute challenge on Jon Dahl Tomasson allowing Andrea Pirlo to convert the ensuing spot kick.

With five matches left, Milan are nine points clear of second place Roma, who have a game in hand.

ROMA 3
CHIEVO 1

Fabio Capello's side were serving the first of a two-match ban from their Olympic stadium following crowd trouble in last month's Rome derby.

Chievo had chances to take the lead but it was John Carew who fired low past keeper Giorgio Frezzolini for a 32nd minute Roma lead. Federico Cossato headed his side level two minutes later.

Antonio Cassano nodded Roma ahead midway through the second half before Andrea Barzagli's own goal late on made it 3-1.

PERUGIA 2
INTER MILAN 3

Three points for Inter in their bid for the fourth Champions League qualification slot but a defeat which leaves Perugia struggling next to bottom.

Against the run of play, Inter's Brazilian Adriano opened the scoring with a superb solo effort in the 24th minute but goals early in the second half from Eusebio Di Francesco and Dario Hubner put relegation-threatened Perugia 2-1 up.

Adriano pulled Inter level with a powerful shot after a smart turn in the 86th minute and three minutes later Nigerian Obafemi Martins sprung Perugia's offside trap and rounded keeper Zeljko Kalac to slot home the winner.

ANCONA 3
BOLOGNA 2

Ancona collected their first win of the campaign after 28 games and a week after relegation.

Hidetoshi Nakata gave Bologna the lead with a 12th-minute penalty but Milan Rapaic pulled Ancona level on 26 minutes.

Christian Bucchi put the home side in front soon after the restart before Rapaic's deflected free kick beat keeper Gianluca Pagliuca to make it 3-1. Igli Tare cut the deficit on 64 minutes to make Ancona sweat out the rest of the match.

PARMA 3
LECCE 1

Goalkeeper Vincenzo Sicignano's blunder allowed Parma's Benito Carbone to slot home after 35 seconds.

Alberto Gilardino easily tapped home Parma's second just before the break when team mate and Socceroo star Marco Bresciano beat the offside trap and fed the young striker in front of goal.

An Ernesto Chevanton blast gave Lecce some hope but Gilardino made sure of the points eight minutes from time, firing his 17th goal of the season from the edge of the box for a win that leaves Parma in the fourth Champions League spot.

REGGINA 0
UDINESE 1

Vincenzo Iaquinta's strike lifted Udinese to a precious away victory over relegation strugglers Reggina.

The Calabrian side attacked from the start hitting the crossbar with a Gianluca Comotto first-half effort. Udinese's David Di Michele was brought down in the box in the 62nd minute but Francesco Cozza fired the ensuing penalty over the crossbar.

The visitors gained momentum and a defensive error in the 76th allowed Iaquinta to slot past keeper Emanuele Belardi.

SIENA 0
SAMPDORIA 0

Sampdoria remain in the race for a UEFA Cup berth and Siena got the point they needed in their effort to avoid the drop.

Both sides had their chances, Aimo Diana hitting the post for Sampdoria in the first half and Enrico Chiesa coming close for Siena with a free kick late on.

Lecce's Jorge Bolano (left) is pulled down by Parma's Manuele Blasi.

Lazio's Bernardo Corradi (left) and Juventus' Gianluca Zambrotta challenge for the ball.

BRESCIA 0
MODENA 0

Roberto Baggio's magic failed to inspire Brescia as their clash with Modena ended in a goalless draw that is of little use to either side.

Modena are still in the bottom four, albeit a point closer to the sides above them.

FIXTURES

Saturday 18th April

Lazio	vs	Ancona
Inter	vs	Bologna
Empoli	vs	Brescia
Parma	vs	Juventus
Siena	vs	Milan
Sampdoria	vs	Perugia
Chievo	vs	Reggina
Modena	vs	Roma
Lecce	vs	Udinese

SERIE B

Ascoli 3 Ternana 2, Albinoleffe 1 Avellino 0, Bari 3 Salernitana 0, Catania 2 Torino 0, Como 0 Atalanta 3, Genoa 2 Fiorentina 1, Napoli 1 Palermo 1, Piacenza 2 Pescara 1, Treviso 1 Livorno 1, Venezia 1 Cagliari 2, Verona 0 Messina 0, Vicenza 1 Triestina 1.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1.Palermo	**37**	**17**	**14**	**6**	**56**	**-30**	**65**
2.Messina	37	16	14	7	52	-34	62
3.Atalanta	37	15	17	5	46	-30	62
4.Livorno	37	15	16	6	56	-37	61
5.Piacenza	37	15	15	7	36	-27	60
6.Cagliari	37	15	14	8	59	-39	59
7.Fiorentina	37	14	14	9	43	-41	56
8.Triestina	37	13	16	8	44	-40	55
9.Ternana	37	14	12	11	49	-41	54
10.Catania	37	14	11	12	42	-40	53
11.Vicenza	37	12	15	10	38	-35	51
12.Torino	37	12	14	11	45	-39	50
13.Napoli	37	9	20	8	27	-34	47
14.Genoa	37	11	13	13	38	-42	46
15.Albinoleffe	37	11	11	15	32	-43	44
16.Treviso	37	9	16	12	33	-36	43
17.Ascoli	37	10	13	14	39	-44	43
18.Venezia	37	9	14	14	29	-40	41
19.Salernitana	37	10	11	16	28	-41	41
20.Verona	37	9	13	15	40	-53	40
21.Pescara	37	9	11	17	30	-50	38
22.Bari	37	9	10	18	39	-50	37
23.Como	37	7	11	19	30	-51	32
24.Avellino	37	5	13	19	39	-53	28

SERIE A

AC Milan 1 Empoli 0, Ancona 3 Bologna 2, Roma 3 Chievo 1, Brescia 0 Modena 0, Parma 3 Lecce 1, Reggina 0 Udinese 1, Siena 0 Sampdoria 0, Juventus 1 Lazio 0, Perugia 2 Inter Milan 3.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1Milan	**29**	**22**	**6**	**1**	**57**	**19**	**72**
2Roma	28	19	6	3	62	14	63
3Juventus	29	19	5	5	57	34	62
4Parma	29	14	8	7	47	38	50
5Inter Milan	29	14	7	8	50	31	49
6Lazio	28	14	5	9	43	31	47
7Udinese	29	12	9	8	36	32	45
8Sampdoria	29	10	12	7	36	34	42
9Bologna	29	9	8	12	38	43	35
10Chievo	29	8	9	12	29	35	33
11Brescia	29	7	11	11	45	50	32
12Siena	29	7	10	12	35	44	31
13Reggina	29	5	13	11	24	40	28
14Lecce	29	7	7	15	32	49	28
15Modena	29	5	12	12	24	38	27
16Empoli	29	6	8	15	20	45	26
17Perugia	29	3	13	13	36	51	22
18Ancona	29	1	7	21	16	59	10

ENGLISH

THE F.A. PREMIER LEAGUE

ARSENAL 4
LIVERPOOL 2

Arsenal defeated fourth-placed Liverpool after twice going behind. Arsene Wenger's men were 2-1 down at the break after strikes from Sami Hyypia and Michael Owen with Thierry Henry responding for Arsenal.

Two goals within two minutes early in the second half from Henry and Robert Pires put the Gunners ahead and Henry settled it with his hat-trick in the 78th minute.

CHELSEA 0
MIDDLESBROUGH 0

Claudio Ranieri's men fell back to earth after their European heroics to be held by a well organised Middlesbrough in a match which offered few chances for either side.

Chelsea, fresh from their Champions League quarter-final success over Arsenal, struggled to break down Boro throughout and only a first half shot from Joe Cole and John Terry's header seriously threatened Mark Schwarzer's goal.

BIRMINGHAM 1
MANCHESTER UTD 2

Manchester United came from a goal down to beat Birmingham 2-1 thanks to a 78th minute Louis Saha header.

Birmingham's Martin Grainger opened the scoring when his free-kick from 25 yards was parried into the net by keeper Roy Carroll.

United substitute Cristiano Ronaldo levelled on the hour when home appeals for offside against Saha went unheeded and the Portuguese striker directed his header perfectly into the corner. Saha grabbed the winner 18 minutes later.

BLACKBURN 1
LEEDS UTD 2

Leeds gained their second vital victory in a week by comfortably dispatching their relegation rivals and now joining them on 31 points but behind on goal difference. They are now third from bottom.

Stephen Caldwell had given Leeds a flying start after two minutes when he ran perfectly on to a Gary Kelly cross from the left to leave keeper Brad Friedel helpless.

Socceroo striker Mark Viduka looked to have made the game safe in the 89th minute but Blackburn's Craig Short reduced the deficit in injury time to set up a frantic few last seconds.

BOLTON 2
ASTON VILLA 2

Villa twice looked to be heading for all three points after going ahead before a late Kevin Davies volley rescued a draw for Sam Allardyce's side.

Beanpole Peter Crouch headed the visitors in front in the 18th minute from six yards after Gareth Barry crossed from the right.

Bolton began the second half in a much more determined mood and equalised swiftly after the

Chelsea's John Terry brings the ball out of defence as two Middlesbrough defenders watch on.

restart when Henrik Pedersen latched on to a rebound but their joy looked short-lived with Lee Hendrie netting a rare goal for Villa.

CHARLTON 1
PORTSMOUTH 1

Portsmouth rescued a valuable point which prevented them falling into the bottom three.

Shaun Bartlett scored his first goal of the year with a header after Jonatan Johansson had found space to cross from the right flank to put Charlton ahead after eight minutes.

Yakubu Aiyegbeni gave Portsmouth a lifeline with a headed equaliser midway through the second half.

LEICESTER CITY 0
FULHAM 2

Collins John scored a second-half double to plunge Leicester further into relegation trouble.

John latched on to a Steed Malbranque pass to lob Fulham into a 66th minute lead and he converted a late Luis Boa Morte cross for the clincher.

Fulham have been in great form of late and look set to end their season on a high after the loss of high profile striker Louis Saha.

Thierry Henry of Arsenal gets past Shay Given of Newcastle during the FA Barclaycard Premiership match between Newcastle United and Arsenal.

MANCHESTER CITY 3
WOLVES 3

A last minute strike from Shaun Wright-Phillips denied bottom-club Wolverhampton three crucial points.

In an amazing first half, Mark Kennedy and a gifted goal for Carl Cort put Wolves in charge but City clawed back the deficit with a flicked Nicolas Anelka header and Antoine Sibierski nodded in the 39th minute equaliser.

Colin Cameron had the chance to put Wolves back in front midway through the second half but his hard-hit penalty was saved by England keeper David James. Henri Camara looked to have made up for the miss with a 78th-minute strike before Wright-Phillips's late intervention.

EVERTON 3
TOTTENHAM 1

Everton's Thomas Gravesen (right) tries to hold off Tottenham's Stephen Carr.

Everton leapfrogged the Londoners and moved nine points away from the relegation zone with an easy victory over below-par Tottenham.

Three goals from three defenders - David Unsworth, Gary Naysmith and Joseph Yobo - in the first half settled the points.

Steve Carr restored some pride for Tottenham with a left-footed curler from 18 yards in the 75th minute.

NEWCASTLE 0
ARSENAL 0

Arsenal's grip on the title tightened when they increased their lead to seven points with a battling 0-0 draw at Newcastle United.

Playing their fourth match in nine days Arsenal had the better chances, and strikers Thierry Henry and Jose Antonio Reyes should have scored in the second half of the London side's 32nd unbeaten league game in succession this season.

It wasn't to be though at St James' Park, as a dull draw ended the match proceedings.

The Gunners needed a point to stay afloat from the rest of the pack after their tragic past few weeks which also had them knocked out from the Champions League thanks to fellow rivals Chelsea.

FIXTURES

Saturday 17th April

Arsenal	v	Leeds
Aston Villa	v	Newcastle
Blackburn	v	Leicester
Bolton	v	Tottenham
Charlton	v	Birmingham
Chelsea	v	Everton
Liverpool	v	Fulham
Man City	v	Southampton
Portsmouth	v	Man Utd
Wolverhampton	v	Middlesbrough

PREMIER LEAGUE

Arsenal 4 Liverpool 2, Everton 3 Tottenham 1, Birmingham City 1 Manchester Utd 2, Blackburn 1 Leeds Utd 2, Bolton 2 Aston Villa 2, Charlton 1 Portsmouth 1, Chelsea 0 Middlesbrough 0, Leicester City 0 Fulham 2, Manchester City 3 Wolverhampton 3, Newcastle 0 Arsenal 0.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Arsenal	**32**	**23**	**9**	**0**	**62**	**22**	**78**
Chelsea	32	22	5	5	58	24	71
Man Utd	31	20	5	6	58	31	65
Liverpool	32	13	10	9	48	35	49
Newcastle	32	12	13	7	45	33	49
Birmingham	32	12	10	10	38	38	46
Aston Villa	32	12	9	11	41	38	45
Fulham	32	12	8	12	44	40	44
Charlton	31	12	8	11	42	40	44
Southampton	31	11	9	11	34	29	42
Middlesbrough	32	11	9	12	37	39	42
Bolton	32	9	11	12	36	50	38
Everton	32	9	10	13	41	46	37
Tottenham	32	11	4	17	41	51	37
Man City	32	7	12	13	45	46	33
Blackburn	32	8	7	17	43	54	31
Portsmouth	31	8	7	16	33	46	31
Leeds	32	8	7	17	34	63	31
Leicester	32	5	13	14	41	57	28
Wolverhampton	32	5	10	17	30	69	25

FIRST DIVISION

Norwich 2 Wigan 0, Sunderland 3 Sheffield Utd 0, Bradford 2 Reading 1, Cardiff 0 Crystal Palace 2, Coventry 4 Millwall 0, Notts Forest 0 Stoke 0, Rotherham 1 Ipswich 3, Walsall 0 Burnley 1, Watford 2 Crewe 1, West Bromwich 1 Gillingham 0, West Ham 0 Derby 0, Wimbledon 3 Preston 3.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Norwich	**40**	**23**	**10**	**7**	**65**	**34**	**79**
West Brom	40	23	10	7	59	34	79
Sunderland	39	20	11	8	58	38	71
Wigan	41	17	14	10	55	42	65
Ipswich	41	19	8	14	78	67	65
West Ham	41	16	16	9	58	43	64
Millwall	40	17	13	10	50	40	64
Sheff Utd	41	18	9	14	58	50	63
Reading	41	18	9	14	52	54	63
Crystal Palace	40	17	9	14	62	56	60
Cardiff	41	16	11	14	62	51	59
Coventry	41	15	13	13	58	45	58
Preston	41	15	11	15	59	56	56
Stoke	40	15	11	14	51	50	56
Notts Forest	41	12	13	16	52	53	49
Crewe	41	13	9	19	49	57	48
Walsall	41	12	12	17	42	53	48
Watford	40	12	11	17	46	58	47
Burnley	40	11	14	15	54	67	47
Rotherham	41	11	13	17	44	56	46
Gillingham	41	12	8	21	40	59	44
Derby	41	10	13	18	43	62	43
Bradford	41	10	6	25	34	58	36
Wimbledon	40	6	4	30	34	80	22

SECOND DIVISION

Blackpool 3 Brighton 1, Chesterfield 0 Stockport 3, Colchester 4 Notts County 1, Hartlepool 2 Bournemouth 1, Oldham 1 Peterborough 1, Plymouth 2 Wycombe 1, Port Vale 1 Wrexham 0, QPR 3 Grimsby 0, Rushden & Diamonds 2 Barnsley 3, Sheffield Wed 1 Brentford 1, Swindon 1 Bristol City 1, Tranmere 1 Luton 0.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Plymouth	41	23	12	6	77	35	81
QPR	41	20	15	6	72	38	75
Bristol City	41	20	12	9	52	33	72
Brighton	41	19	9	13	60	43	66
Swindon	41	18	12	11	68	54	66
Hartlepool	41	17	12	12	66	56	63
Port Vale	41	18	9	14	65	57	63
Bournemouth	40	16	12	12	51	42	60
Luton	40	15	14	11	61	55	59
Barnsley	41	14	16	11	48	48	58
Tranmere	41	13	16	12	47	51	55
Colchester	41	14	13	14	44	50	55
Wrexham	40	16	7	17	44	50	55
Blackpool	41	14	11	16	50	57	53
Sheff Wed	41	13	13	15	44	53	52
Rushden & Diamonds	41	13	8	20	60	67	47
Stockport	41	10	16	15	56	64	46
Oldham	40	9	18	13	55	55	45
Peterborough	41	10	15	16	50	53	45
Grimsby	41	11	11	19	51	75	44
Brentford	41	11	10	20	45	65	43
Chesterfield	41	10	13	18	44	66	43
Notts County	41	10	10	21	48	70	40
Wycombe	41	6	16	19	46	67	34

Glory Go Ba

by Carlos Furtado

ck to Back

Spanish Primera Liga

Valencia replaced Real Madrid atop the Spanish league standings after midfielder Miguel Angel Angulo scored a second-half header to earn a 1-0 win at Cup winners Real Zaragoza. Real had held the league lead since January 19.

With just six games remaining Valencia lead the standings on 69 points. Real follow on 67 while Deportivo Coruna, who won 2-0 at Villarreal, are a distant third on 60.

Real Madrid lost at home for the first time this season, 3-0 to seventh-place Osasuna.

Real could hardly have got off to a worse start at the Bernabeu when they went a goal down in the second minute through Valdo.

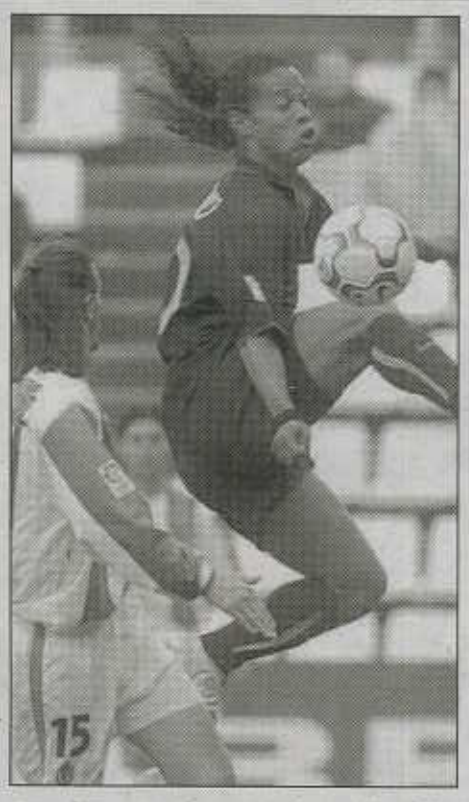
The champions were 2-0 down at the break and also lost Brazilian striker Ronaldo with an injury in the first half. The crowd whistled and waved white handkerchiefs, signifying surrender, after the third goal from Moha.

Deportivo La Coruna followed up their sensational thrashing of AC Milan with a professional 2-0 win over Villarreal.

FIXTURES

Sunday 18th April

Athletic	vs	Zaragoza
Sevilla	vs	Racing
Albacete	vs	Celta
Osasuna	vs	Espanyol
Atlético	vs	R Madrid
Barcelona	vs	Málaga
Deportivo	vs	Valladolid
Mallorca	vs	Villarreal
Murcia	vs	Betis
Valencia	vs	R Sociedad



Barcelona's Ronaldinho (right) jumps above Valladolid's Pablo Paz.

Walter Pandiani made up for an earlier penalty miss when he put Deportivo a goal up by heading home Mauro Silva's cross.

Diego Tristan made sure of the points with a delightful chip in the 90th minute.

Ronaldinho showed the best and worst sides of his nature but was still enough to inspire Barcelona to a 3-1 victory at Real Valladolid.

After Javier Saviola had given Barca the lead after only two minutes, Ronaldinho doubled the Catalans' advantage on the half-hour mark, but then displayed his suspect temperament by getting himself sent off for a second bookable offence after 53 minutes.

And when Oscar Gonzalez pulled one back 12 minutes later, Barca looked to be facing an embarrassing comeback however substitute Andres Iniesta banished those nightmares six minutes from time with the third.

Two second half goals from Real Sociedad striker Nihat Kahveci condemned Murcia to a 2-0 defeat.

It is an important three points for Raynald Denoueix's side who have now moved eight points clear of the drop zone.

Nihat broke the deadlock after 64 minutes when Nihat produced a cool finish to settle the home side's nerves. Sociedad made sure of the victory in the 87th minute after Javier De Pedro threaded the ball through to the inspirational Nihat who applied a ruthless finish.

A Maxi Rodriguez goal earned Espanyol a draw against Albacete at the Olympic stadium, but the point will do little to help them in their bid to avoid the drop.

Athletic Bilbao boosted their hopes of qualifying for Europe next season thanks to a 90th-minute winner from Francisco Yeste which clinched an important 2-1 win over Racing Santander.

Bilbao took the lead when Andoni Iraola finished off a swift break.

Racing netted a deserved equaliser when Mario Regueiro set up Javi Guerrero to slot home but it was to be Bilbao's day when Yeste struck the winner in the final minute.

Fifth-placed Atletico Madrid squandered the opportunity to tighten their grip on a UEFA Cup place when they lost 3-1 at Malaga. Former Atletico player Diego Alonso notched up two of the home side's goals.

Celta slipped a step closer to second division football with an uninspired 0-0 home draw in which they had only a handful of opportunities.

Sevilla had the best chances but failed to press home their advantage after Celta were reduced to 10 men when midfielder Jose Ignacio was expelled in the 63rd minute.

Finally Real Mallorca boosted their survival hopes at the expense of Real Betis as goals from Samuel Eto'o and Jesus Perera clinched a valuable victory.

Celta Vigo 0 Sevilla 0, Malaga 3 Atletico Madrid 1, Valladolid 1 Barcelona 3, Espanyol 1 Albacete 1, Santander 1 Athletic Bilbao 2, Real Betis 0 Mallorca 2, Real Madrid 0 Osasuna 3, Real Sociedad 2 Murcia 0, Real Zaragoza 0 Valencia 1, Villarreal 0 Deportivo Coruna 2.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1 Valencia	32	21	6	5	63	21	69
2 Real Madrid	32	20	7	5	65	40	67
3 Deportivo	32	18	6	8	52	30	60
4 Barcelona	31	17	8	6	51	33	59
5 Osasuna	32	11	15	6	35	27	48
6 Athletic	32	13	9	10	42	40	48
7 Atlético	32	13	9	10	39	39	48
8 Málaga	32	14	4	14	44	45	46
9 Sevilla	32	11	9	12	40	36	42
10 Villarreal	32	11	8	13	39	42	41
11 Betis	31	9	12	10	38	36	39
12 Real Sociedad	32	10	9	13	37	43	39
13 Zaragoza	32	10	8	14	36	42	38
14 Racing	32	10	9	13	42	51	38
15 Albacete	32	10	7	15	32	40	37
16 Valladolid	32	9	9	14	38	47	36
17 Mallorca	32	10	6	16	39	57	36
18 Espanyol	32	9	4	19	35	54	31
19 Celta	32	6	12	14	41	60	30
20 Murcia	32	3	11	18	25	50	20

German Bundesliga

Schalke's Mike Hanke (left) tries to stop Bayern Munich's Jens Jeremies.

FIXTURES

Saturday 17th April

Werder Bremen	vs	Hannover
VFB Stuttgart	vs	E.Frankfurt
Wolfsburg	vs	Freiburg
M'gladbach	vs	Hertha Berlin
Kaiserslautern	vs	Hansa Rostock
Schalke	vs	B.Leverkusen
Dortmund	vs	B.Munich
1860 Munich	vs	Hamburg SV
FC Cologne	vs	Bochum

Werder Bremen maintained their seven-point advantage over Bayern Munich at the top of the Bundesliga as both teams recorded one-goal victories.

Valerien Ismael's late penalty lifted Bremen to a 1-0 win at second-bottom Eintracht Frankfurt, who were reduced to 10 men following the 41st minute sending-off of Ioannis Amanatidis.

Eintracht, who have just 26 points with six games remaining, are two points from safety.

Bayern, who must win the title if they are to claim a trophy this season, beat Schalke 2-1 at the Olympic Stadium in Munich.

Dutch international Roy Makaay scored twice after Belgian midfielder Sven Vermant had given Schalke an early lead.

Bayer Leverkusen mauled Kaiserslautern 6-0 to remain firmly in the hunt for a return to the Champions League.

Lautern got off to the worst possible start thanks to Timo Wenzel's own goal just two minutes into the game. Dimitar Berbatov, Lucio and Franca then made it 4-0 by the interval.

The rout was on three minutes into the second half when Yildiray Basturk added a fifth and then Franca scored his second of the game in the 54th minute.

Nando Rafael's 22nd minute strike was the only goal of the game as Hertha Berlin claimed a crucial 1-0 win at home over Wolfsburg.

Hertha are still in the drop zone, but level with Kaiserslautern on 28 points. As for Wolfsburg, it wasn't the debut coach Eric Gerets wanted in charge of the club as they are now just three points above the drop zone.

Stuttgart boosted their hopes of qualifying for next season's Champions League by beating Freiburg 1-0 at the Dreisamstadion.

Kevin Kuranyi's tenth minute header was enough to secure three points for Stuttgart who currently occupy the final Champions League qualifying spot.

The victory over Freiburg means Stuttgart now have a five point cushion over fourth-placed Bayer Leverkusen.

Borussia Dortmund stepped up their bid for Champions League football next season with an impressive win at Hamburg, Torsten Frings and Jan Koller netting the first-half goals.

Matthias Sammer's Dortmund are sixth in the league and pursuing a UEFA Cup place.

There are relegation fears at 1860 Munich after their 4-0 demolition by Bochum.

Vahid Hashemian's two first-half goals put Bochum on their way as they remained in fifth place ahead of Dortmund on goal difference.

1860, who play in the shadow of city rivals Bayern, have much to do to guarantee their top-flight place.

Borussia Moenchengladbach were 2-1 winners at Hansa Rostock to ease their own relegation fears. Joris van Hout's goal seven minutes from time propelled the visitors to the win. They are now three points clear of the bottom three.

Finally Hannover triumphed over rock-bottom Cologne 1-0.

Hannover's winner came when Steve Cherundolo's whipped in cross was headed against the post by Thomas Christiansen, and Thomas Brdaric slotted home the rebound from four yards.

Cologne remain rooted to the bottom of the table and are a distant eight points from safety.

Bayer Leverkusen 6 Kaiserslautern 0, Bayern Munich 2 Schalke 1, Eintracht Frankfurt 0 Werder Bremen 1, Hamburg 0 Dortmund 2, Hansa Rostock 1 Moenchengladbach 2, Hertha Berlin 1 Wolfsburg 0, Bochum 4 1860 Munich 0, Hannover 1 Cologne 0, Freiburg 0 Stuttgart 1.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1 Bremen	28	20	6	2	67	28	66
2 Bayern	28	17	8	3	63	30	59
3 Stuttgart	28	15	9	4	43	17	54
4 Leverkusen	28	14	7	7	56	34	49
5 Bochum	28	12	9	7	46	33	45
6 Dortmund	28	13	6	9	47	36	45
7 Schalke	28	11	10	7	38	32	43
8 Hamburg	28	10	6	12	37	49	36
9 Hansa	28	9	8	11	43	41	35
10 Freiburg	28	9	7	12	38	54	34
11 Hannover	28	8	8	12	44	55	32
12 Moen/ladbach	28	8	7	13	31	40	31
13 Wolfsburg	28	10	1	17	46	57	31
14 1860 Munich	28	8	6	14	28	44	30
15 Kaiserslautern	28	9	4	15	29	48	28
16 Hertha	28	6	10	12	28	51	28
17 Eintracht	28	7	5	16	28	42	26
18 Köln	28	5	5	18	23	44	20

WORLD

Scottish Premier League

Dunfermline celebrate Craig Brewster's headed equaliser against Inverness in their Scottish FA Cup Semi-Final.

A defensive howler from Hearts captain Steven Pressley ended his side's 11-match unbeaten run in the Bank of Scotland Premier League to hand bottom club Partick Thistle only their fourth win of the season.

The Scotland international's attempted back header was intercepted by former Queen of the South striker Andy Thomson in the 49th minute and he lobbed on-rushing Hearts keeper Craig Gordon with aplomb.

The win was no more than Thistle deserved after the Glasgow side had dominated the first-half.

But the Jambos' agony was compounded by the dismissal of midfielder Paul Hartley in the 87th minute for his second bookable offence.

Kilmarnock paid the ultimate price for conceding too many needless fouls as Hibernian punished them three times at dead-ball situations to maintain their slim hopes of winning a top-six place.

A spectacular first-half free-kick double from Gary Caldwell and Kevin Thomson set the tone for the Edinburgh side, who added the decisive third with a Derek Riordan penalty soon after the break.

Killie, who again endured an afternoon to forget, tried gamely to drag themselves back in the game, but were second-best in almost every department.

Billy Dodds' second-half double earned Dundee United a 2-2 draw against Dundee and kept alive their hopes of attaining a top-six finish.

The veteran star struck soon after the interval then added a second from the penalty spot to sicken Dundee, who had led at the break after goals from Steve Lovell and Steven Milne.

Scottish Cup Semis

Martin O'Neill's treble-chasing side seized on some calamitous Livingston defending at Hampden Park to book their place in the Scottish Cup final on May 22.

There were bigger gaps in the Livingston defence than among the supporters as Chris Sutton helped himself to a double of his own either side of a Henrik Larsson goal.

Colin McMenamin gave Livingston scant consolation after Sutton had hobbled off the pitch to give O'Neill some concern ahead of Wednesday's UEFA Cup quarter-final second leg at Villarreal.

A Craig Brewster header ensured Dunfermline have another crack at booking their place in the final of the Tennent's Scottish Cup.

They had been left trailing to Inverness Caledonian Thistle at Hampden when Paul Ritchie netted for the Bell's First Division side right on the stroke of half-time.

Roy McBain played the ball out to David Bingham and it was his cross which found Ritchie to send a glancing header in off the post into the back of the net.

Brewster hauled the Pars back into the game midway through the second half but neither side could find the goal that would secure their progression and the outcome will now be decided at Pittodrie on April 20.

Hibernian 3 Kilmarnock 0, Partick Thistle 1 Hearts 0, Dundee Utd 2 Dundee 2.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1Celtic	**31**	**28**	**3**	**0**	**97**	**18**	**87**
2Rangers	31	22	4	5	63	25	70
3Hearts	32	15	9	8	46	35	54
4Dunfermline	30	12	9	9	33	40	45
5Dundee United	32	11	8	13	38	50	41
6Motherwell	31	10	9	12	36	37	39
7Hibernian	31	9	9	13	34	49	36
8Livingston	31	8	10	13	36	46	34
9Dundee	32	8	9	15	39	53	33
10Kilmarnock	32	9	5	18	39	67	32
11Aberdeen	31	8	7	16	36	49	31
12Partick	32	4	6	22	31	59	18

French Ligue I

Lyon went top of the Ligue One after defeating Strasbourg 1-0.

Former Strasbourg striker Peguy Luyindula scored the only goal of the game at the start of the second half.

Edmilson fired a long pass to Giovane Elber and the Brazilian nodded it into Luyindula's path, with the striker making no mistake against his old club.

Title-chasing Monaco could only manage a goalless draw at Lens. Although Lens have been on a good run, the Principality club were still hung over from their Champions League win over Real Madrid and it showed as they displayed no such fluency against Lens, especially in a poor first half where neither side looked like scoring.

Ten-man Paris St Germain scored two late goals at Nice to keep their own title hopes alive with a 1-2 victory.

Lilian Laslandes scored in the first half for the home side and they went into the final 10 minutes of the game looking certain to claim a victory but then it all went terribly wrong for Gernot Rohr's men.

Jose Karl Pierre-Fanfan rose highest to meet a corner kick taken by Fabrice Fiorese and scored in the top corner in the 80th minute before Juan Pablo Sorin headed in the winner just three minutes from time.

Le Mans narrowed the gap at the bottom of the table with a close-fought 2-1 win over fellow strugglers Toulouse.

The hosts had only managed four league wins all season prior to kick-off, but they got off to the most fortunate of starts when Toulouse defender Issou Malia Dao badly misjudged a cross from Phillipe Celdran and directed the ball straight past his own keeper and into the back of the net.

Fabrice Pancrate doubled the advantage after the break and, though Cedric Faure reduced the arrears, Le Mans were able to register a rare win.

The Champions League dreams are starting to fade for Sochaux despite beating Guingamp 2-0.

Benoit Pedretti struck in the 58th minute, bending a free-kick from the edge of the area to beat visiting goalkeeper Ronan Le Crom before Guingamp's Romain Ferrier turned the ball into his own net for the second goal.

Auxerre boosted their hopes of qualifying for Europe with a 2-1 victory over relegation-threatened Metz.

Second-half goals goals from Djibril Cisse and Bonaventure Kalou either side of Toifilou Maoulida's reply secured all three points.

Rigobert Song (left) challenges for the ball with Monaco's Ludovic Giuly (centre).

Lens 0 Monaco 0, Nice 1 Paris St Germain 2, Ajaccio 0 Montpellier 0, Nantes 1 Bastia 1, Sochaux 2 Guingamp 0, Auxerre 2 Metz 1, Le Mans 2 Toulouse 1, Strasbourg 0 Lyon 1, (Rennes vs Bordeaux, Marseille vs Lille – Postponed).

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1Lyon	**32**	**20**	**6**	**6**	**54**	**23**	**66**
2Monaco	32	18	11	3	52	23	65
3PSG	32	18	9	5	45	24	63
4Sochaux	32	16	9	7	46	32	57
5Auxerre	32	16	6	10	50	28	54
6Marseille	31	15	5	11	44	36	50
7Nantes	32	13	8	11	40	32	47
8Lens	32	13	7	12	27	40	46
9Lille	31	12	8	11	35	31	44
10Nice	32	10	14	8	35	31	44
11Bordeaux	31	11	10	10	30	31	43
12Rennes	31	10	9	12	41	38	39
13Bastia	32	9	11	12	33	39	38
14Strasbourg	32	8	9	15	40	49	33
15Guingamp	31	9	5	17	30	49	32
16Ajaccio	32	8	8	16	27	48	32
17Metz	31	8	7	16	26	35	31
18Toulouse	32	7	9	16	24	39	30
19Montpellier	32	8	5	19	36	59	29
20Mans	32	5	10	17	22	50	25

Dutch Eredivisie

Ajax and Feyenoord had to settle for a 1-1 draw in the biggest showpiece game in the Dutch calendar but the Amsterdam club may still be just a week away from celebrating the Eredivisie title.

Dirk Kuijt's late equaliser for Feyenoord denied Ajax a victory which had looked to be on the cards when Zlatan Ibrahimovic gave them the lead through the second half.

Defending champions PSV Eindhoven trimmed Ajax's lead to 10 points by beating Groningen 5-0.

Serbo-Montenegrin striker Mateja Kezman scored a hat-trick, while Jan Vennegoor of Hesselink and Johan Vonlanthen chipped in with a goal apiece.

A brave second-half rally enabled relegation-threatened Vitesse Arnhem to overturn a two-goal deficit and snatch a 2-2 draw with 10-man NAC Breda.

NAC scored with their only two chances of the first half through Anouar Diba (16) and Orlando Engelaar (40).

However, Theo Janssen reduced arrears (67) and two minutes later Diba was red-carded for violent conduct. A minute later Mamadou Zongo scored the equaliser.

At Roosendaal, another second-half rally saw visitors Twente Enschede edge RBC 2-1.

The hosts took the lead after just 28 seconds through an own goal from Peter Pothuizen, but two second-half goals from Simon Cziommer won it for the team from Enschede.

Red-hot Utrecht were cooled off at the Abe Lenstra Stadion as they went down 4-0 to Heerenveen.

Gerald Sibon smashed a first-half hat-trick before turning provider for Jesper Hakansson after the interval.

Zwolle climbed off the foot of the table as they defeated high-flying AZ Alkmaar 2-0.

Zwolle had only managed three wins in their previous 28 league games prior to kick-off, and AZ were expected to pick up an easy three points.

However, the home side had clearly not read the script and boosted their relegation fears with a much-needed victory thanks to goals from Ivar van Dinteren and Dominggus Lim-Duan.

Zwolle leapfrog Volendam who went down 1-0 to Willem II courtesy of Tom Caluwe.

Caluwe's goal two minutes from time secured a 1-0 win for Willem II and sent Volendam to the bottom of the Eredivisie.

With the game seemingly heading for a stalemate, Anouar Hadouir's shot deflected off Volendam defender Ruud Kras.

ADO Den Haag failed to ease their relegation fears after they went down to a 3-1 defeat at the hands of RKC Waalwijk.

Goals from Jason Oosta and Robert Fuchs gave the visitors a two-goal lead.

Den Haag managed to pull themselves back into the game when Khalid Boulahrouz handballed in the area and Jan-Paul Saeijs converted the ensuing spot-kick.

However, any thoughts the home side had of claiming anything from the match were dealt a hammer blow when RKC re-established their two-goal advantage through Bernardo Vasconcelos five minutes from time.

A commanding 4-0 home victory over NEC Nijmegen saw Roda JC preserve their ambitions of European football next season.

Roda JC 4 NEC Nijmegen 0, Zwolle 2 AZ Alkmaar 0, Heerenveen 4 Utrecht 0, Den Haag 1 RKC Waalwijk 3, Volendam 0 Willem 1, Feyenoord 1 Ajax 1, Vitesse Arnhem 2 NAC Breda 2, RBC Roosendaal 1 Twente Enschede 2, PSV Eindhoven 5 Groningen 0.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1Ajax	**29**	**22**	**3**	**4**	**66**	**28**	**69**
2PSV	29	18	5	6	74	26	59
3Feyenoord	29	16	8	5	54	34	56
4Heerenveen	29	16	6	7	44	31	54
5Alkmaar	29	16	4	9	53	34	52
6Roda	29	12	8	9	52	36	44
7Willem II	29	12	8	9	41	46	44
8Utrecht	29	12	6	11	39	44	42
9Twente	29	13	2	14	48	47	41
10NAC	29	10	9	10	48	44	39
11Roosendaal	29	10	9	10	31	34	39
12Waalwijk	29	9	8	12	39	39	35
13NEC	29	10	1	18	40	52	31
14Groningen	29	8	7	14	31	45	31
15Den Haag	29	6	7	16	28	56	25
16Vitesse	29	3	13	13	33	51	22
17Zwolle	29	4	9	16	23	53	21
18Volendam	29	5	5	19	24	68	20

NSW PREMIER LEAGUE

White Eagles soar over Panthers

Penrith Panthers	ALLIED PICKFORDS	1
Bonnyrigg White Eagles	mr.mobile	5

By Greg Stock

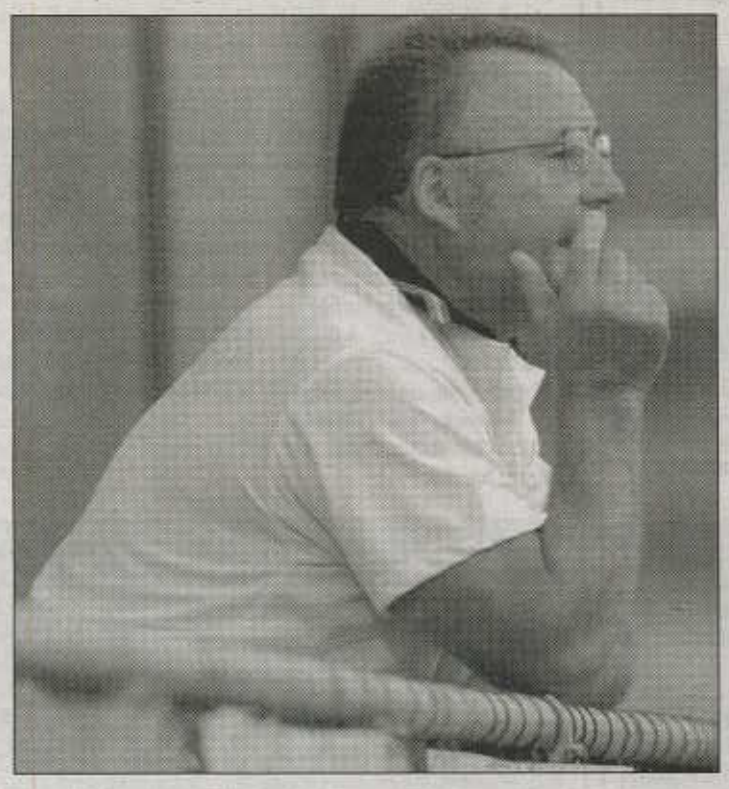
Penrith's season stands on a knife's edge after an embarrassing second-half shellacking by Bonnyrigg.

Bonnyrigg were quite simply too fast, too strong and too skilful for the Panthers who had to play the majority of the second-half with just ten men, after striker Jason Connolly was sent from the field by referee Jonathan Streater for swearing. Their 5-1 victory a comprehensive defeat if ever there was one.

While Penrith started off brightly enough, few could have predicted their descent after half-time, which found them trailing 2-1.

Martin McCaffery burst through in the 17th minute to give them the early lead before Sam Larocca laid on a brilliant cross for Aaron Burgess to turn in three minutes later.

Burgess had his second a minute before half-time rather controversially when he was put through by Jimmy Aschner, the pleas of the Penrith defenders for offside falling on deaf ears as Burgess successfully rounded goalkeeper Chad Taylor.



"It all comes down to next week for us": Panthers coach Tony Rasmussen on Penrith chances for the semi-finals

At 2-1 down there was still a lot of light at the end of the tunnel for the home side who came out strongly in the first five minutes of the second-half to bomb a couple of tight chances. But when Jason Connolly verbally retaliated in an off-the-ball incident with Bonnyrigg's Mark D'Alessandro, referee Jonathan Streater gave the influential striker a red card and with him went any chance of a Panthers revival.

While Penrith were flat out getting out of their own half for the remainder of the game, there were no such problems for Bonnyrigg who seized control of the match, scoring three goals - and if not for the heroics of Chad Taylor - could have had four or five more.

In one of his rare forays forward Mark D'Alessandro set up his sides' third goal when he whipped in an excellent cross to the unmarked Jimmy Aschner at the back post, before Sam Larocca set up substitute Dalibor Drca in the 80th minute for number four.

Vuko Tomasevic capped off an excellent game in the midfield scoring his sides' fifth and last goal when he successfully beat Taylor one-on-one by tucking a deft shot under the diving goalkeeper's body.

"Bonnyrigg were quite clearly the better side tonight and just blew us away in the second half," Panthers coach Tony Rasmussen said, "we were giving as good as got up until the incident with Jason Connolly, but after that we just self-destructed and Bonnyrigg just took us apart."

Nursing a number of key injuries in his camp, the Panthers are really making life tough for themselves with just four rounds of the competition remaining.

We came, we saw, we kicked five goals: Bonnyrigg gave some shine to the season over the weekend

While Daniel McCann played with bone-spurs in his foot, Peter Bennett was missing through suspension, as was Roger Galayini who played second grade.

"It all comes down to next week for us now," Rasmussen said, "we must win at least three of our last four to be a chance, and four out of four if we want to be certain. While we had our destiny in our hands, we [now] have to rely on other results and when your in that position it's always going to be difficult."

PENRITH PANTHERS 1
(M McCaffery 17')
BONNYRIGG WHITE EAGLES 5
(A Burgess 20', 44', J Aschner 60', D Drca 80', V Tomasevic 91')
at Cook Park, St Marys

PENRITH PANTHRES: Chad Taylor, Luke O'Connell, Daniel Wells, Ryan Noble, Martin McCaffery, Alan Wawi, Daniel McCann (Paul Marosevic 71'), Luke Boyd, Jason Sciberras (Tim O'Connell 65'), Danny Hinton (Adam Anderson 65'), Jason Connolly.
Coach: Tony Rasmussen

BONNYRIGG WHITE EAGLES: Cem Akill, Devrim Huseyin, Mark D'Alessandro (George Radmanovic 75'), Tayfun Devrimol, Shane Knight, Brad Groves, Aaron Burgess (Dalibor Drca 73'), Vuko Tomasevic, Sam Larocca, Greg Collins (Alex Canak 63'), Jimmy Aschner.
Coach: Gordon Brown

Cautions: Connolly (pp) 41' 54' McCann (pp) 65' L.O'Connell (pp) 68'
Red Card: Connolly (pp) 54'
Referee: Jonathan Streater
Assistant Referees: Nick Radic and Nick Kimber
Fourth Official: Atila Stibinger

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Saintly 'juggernaut' rolls over Berries

Canterbury-Marrickville	Olympic	1
St George Saints	Sydney Metro Leagues	3

By Greg Stock

The St George 2004 juggernaut effortlessly claimed another victim on Saturday night, taking the club ever so closer to the Premiership trophy.

Having defeated Rockdale 3-1 in trying conditions midweek, the Saints 3-1 win over bottom-of-the-ladder Canterbury was not a brilliant win, but it was efficient and at this stage of the season, these sorts of results are immensely encouraging.

With Belconnen breathing down their necks in second spot, St George responded to the challenge as coach Manny Spanoudakis reshuffled his starting line-up in a bid to rest a few tired legs.

Skipper Gabriel Mendez and Mirko Jurilj wrought havoc on the Berries lines, setting up Ante Deur's goal in the 27th minute. Mendez racing down the left-hand side to send in a cross which Canterbury goal-keeper Bob Catlin could only parry for Deur to knock away with a deft lobbing header that snuck in just under the crossbar.

The only time the Saints lost concentration was late in the first-half when they allowed Canterbury striker Morgan Cawley to put away an Archie Kotsopoulos cross, after the pint-sized midfielder had bustled his way down the left-hand touchline.

Cawley easily beat a shocked Simon Verrender, sending his header easily past a stranded Richard Patrizi who should have been offered more support by his defenders.

In the second-half normal service was resumed with Bruno Beddoni picking up goal number two in the 62nd minute. In almost a carbon-copy of the first goal, Mendez sent in a well-placed cross, Catlin was unable to hold the ball and after a brief goal-mouth scramble, Beddoni was able to bundle the ball over the line.

Stuart Young sealed the result when Ante Deur threaded a ball through a tightly packed Berries defence for substitute Daniel Watkins to run onto. Rather than testing Catlin with a drive, Watkins showed some excellence presence of mind to square the ball to the unmarked Young at the back post and he was able to hit the empty net.

While Canterbury did have a few moments, there was no doubt that from the opening whistle they were not in the same class as their opponents. Despite capitalizing on a unique opportunity to equalize the game just prior to half-time, they lacked consistency in the midfield and as a result battled to get out of their own half at times.

Archie Kotsopoulos was the exception for the Berries, as a couple of his speedy runs down the left flank caused problems, but he was let down by some poor crossing that robbed his team of any opportunity to mount pressure.

St George were far from brilliant but, leg weary as they were, their domination was never seriously threatened. Jurilj, Mendez, Beddoni and Patrizi were excellent, while substitutes Watkins and Bove showed their class when coming on at a key stage in the second-half.

The combination of Gabriel Mendez (above) and Mirko Jurilj (left) in the midfield proved disasterous for the Canterbury defence

CANTERBURY-MARRICKVILLE . . .1
(M Cawley 40')
ST GEORGE SAINTS 3
(A Deur 29', B Beddoni 62', S Young 90')
at Henson Park, Marrickville

CANTERBURY-MARRICKVILLE: Bob Catlin, Sasa Utjesenovic, Cormack Begley, George Souris, David Harding (Paul Bourke 71'), Alan Picken, David Gardiner, Stuart Banks, Achileas Markopoulos (Steve Karavatakis 75'), Morgan Cawley (Angelo Markopoulos 79'), Archie Kotsopoulos
Coach: Bob Catlin

ST. GEORGE SAINTS: Richard Patrizi, Simon Verrender, Ivan Zelic, Dean Culina, Adrian Webster, Bruno Beddoni (Daniel Watkins 79'), Gabriel Mendez, Ante Deur, Mirko Jurilj, Max Sevares (Raphael Bove 67'), Stuart Young
Coach: Manny Spanoudakis

Yellow Cards: Gardiner (cmp) 4' Verrender (stg) 20'
Referee: Craig Pearce
Assistant Referees: Terry Goodhew and Wayne Blackwood
Fourth Official: Michael Collins

Tanzey pep-talk makes for cake-walk

Belconnen Blue Devils	Banc Trade	3
Central Coast United	Colorbond	1

By Paul Goodwin

Belconnen thumped the Coasties in Canberra on Saturday night after coming back from 1-0 down at half-time; in the process firming as the only real threat to St George for the minor premiership in 2004.

The result came from a game that the Devils mostly controlled - though failed to dominate until the last half hour - and sees them consolidate their hold on second spot.

The home side began brightly, with Ilija Prenzoski getting on the end of an Elliot Zwangobani cross in the 9th minute, trying to chip the keeper, only to see his effort come off the right-hand upright.

Central Coasts' John Bennis shot wide of the Blue Devils' goal in the 10th minute from 25-yards out, and Gareth Jenkins hit a shot wide from 20-yards out just a minute later.

In the 25th minute Prenzoski came down around the edge of the box, but referee Ben Williams saw no foul - despite Prenzoski needing treatment before continuing.

Prenzoski was back in the action in the 26th minute when he again tried to chip Coast sticks Mathew Trott, this time from wide on the left, but his effort went wide of the post.

On the stroke of half-time Oscar Zamora was dispossessed in midfield, the ball found its way to Peter Haynes, wide on the right, who looked up before dispatching a rocket of a shot across goal and into the top left hand corner of the net, from 35-yards out, leaving Tony Giannasca with nothing to grab but air.

Belconnen coach Chris Tanzey's half-time talk must have been good, and would have emphasised staying on-side, as the Blue Devils' attack had been caught out on numerous occasions.

Tanzey withdrew Toplica Popovich from the defence and replaced him with midfielder Anthony Galliozzi and this had immediate results - within a minute Belconnen had drawn level.

A cross from Castro was headed down at the back post by Prenzoski right into Daniel Macor's path, and the goal-scoring hero of seasons past had no problem finding the back of the net from ten-yards out.

Four minutes later a cross from Galliozzi was allowed to bounce in the box by a grouping of the visitors' defenders and as the ball came off the ground Prenzoski was on hand to head the ball past the stranded Trott to put the Blue Devils in the lead at last.

The nail was put in the Coast side's coffin in the 56th minute, when the Devils completed the complete turn-around.

Mike Katz picked the ball up on the right of the box, attacked the defence at speed and then slid the ball past Trott from the edge of the six yard box.

Eleven minutes into the second-half and the Devils had suddenly turned the game on its head.

The locals prevailed 3-1 but after a very poor first-half it had hardly seemed likely, until that all important half-time address from Tanzey.

Tanzey, said he was delighted with the result, especially having heard that Blacktown had lost in Sydney, further opening the gap between the two sides competing for second place.

Coast coach Jim Foley said he would now be concentrating on next weeks' vital bottom of the table clash with Canterbury – a must win for his Central Coast outfit.

BONNYRIGG WHITE EAGLES 3
(D Macor 46', I Prenzoski 50'., M Katz 56')
CENTRAL COAST UNITED 1
(P Haynes 45')
at McKellar Soccer Centre, McKellar

BELCONNEN BLUE DEVILS Tony Giannasca, Adrian Dowling, Lee Pietrukowski, Oscar Zamora, Elliot Zwangobani, Michael Katz, David Arranz, Toplica Popovich (Anthony Galliozzi), Alex Castro (Adam Williams), Ilija Prenzoski (Matt Valeri), Daniel Macor
Subs not used: RGK Jimmy Carr, Patrick Lloyd, Doug Hynson
Coach: Chris Tanzey

CENTRAL COAST UNITED: Matthew Trott, David Brewer, Daniel Surridge, Sean Matthews, Doug West, Beau Busch (Robert Russell), Gareth Jenkins (Mitchell Daley), John Bennis, Peter Haynes, Marc Falzon (C), Matt Mitchell, Nathan Bym
Sub not used: RGK Ben Xerri, Kristian Shepherd, Darren Cooper
Coach: Jim Foley

Referee: Ben Williams
Assistant Referees: Gary Vandeburgh and Tom Earl
Fourth Official: Ned Sparkes
Yellow Cards: Belconnen: Anthony Galliozzi, Alex Castro; Central Coast: Gareth Jenkins

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Tigers get the monkey off their back

Blacktown City Demons	Perfection	0
A.P.I.A.-Leichhardt Tigers	Continental	1

By Paul Goodwin

Once again A.P.I.A.-Leichhardt Tigers showed their liking for the lush surrounds of the Gabbie when they shocked a clearly under-strength Blacktown City Demons on Easter Saturday night.

Though the margin was a slender 1-0, for much of the game it looked as if the visitors, whose last away win had been at Bankstown back in January ten rounds ago, would win comfortably.

But the inner-city side frittered away countless chances and had to settle for a lone, but brilliantly taken, Zlatko Arambasic goal to settle the issue.

The Demons went into the game without injured trio Dane Hokin, Ben Willard and Marcus Phillips and were also missing Mark Milligan, away on international duty.

The Tigers had Robbie Stanton and ex-Blacktown man Jimmy Nikas sidelined with injuries, but welcomed back long time Demon Damon Langan.

With Langan at the heart of the A.P.I.A. defence Tigers' coach, Les De Celis moved Andrew Clark to out wide on the left and settled for Robbie Hooker and David Barrett in marking roles at the back alongside Langan, with Paul Dee patrolling the right flank.

Both Clark and Dee figured in many of the Tigers' attacks while Norman Tome thrust forward in company with Arambasic and the speedy James Monie.

Blacktown were very sluggish and only really came alive after the break, when Demons' coach Brian Brown gave Simon Catanzaro his chance to return to the side after a long absence due to injury.

By that stage A.P.I.A. had made the game theirs and should have put away goals galore. Instead, they found themselves under pressure for the last half-hour as the home side mounted attack after attack - only to deliver poor final passes when they were needed.

Blacktown could have scored first, though, in the 12th minute, when A.P.I.A. keeper Stewart Vella had to get down quickly to block a fine cross from Tony Faria.

The loose ball fell to Dominic Magill who then struck the ball straight at Vella, who was able to get a reflex save off with his legs. Vella also had to come off his line in the 21st to punch clear from another dangerous-looking Faria cross.

A.P.I.A. began to take over after these Demons' disappointments.

Tome was just wide with a 27th minute effort, after Arambasic had knocked the ball down in his path, right in front and four minutes later a near-post cross, that looked tailor made for the same player, was cut out superbly by a brilliant full length diving save from Demons' skipper John Crawley as Arambasic volleyed expertly.

The visitors finally took the lead in the 40th minute. Dee made ground down the right and threaded an inch-perfect pass through for Arambasic to go on and beat Crawley with a very accomplished finish.

It looked a class goal, but the same man made a real meal of many later chances that looked easier, allowing the ball to run away from him far too often or dwelling on the ball long enough for a defender to make a saving tackle.

If not for Zlatko Arambasic's lone goal, things could have been different for A.P.I.A.

Clark's good work down the left also went unrewarded as Monie headed wide in the 42nd, from close range, while Clark, himself, got on the end of a Jeremy Brown through ball only to fire wide in the 55th.

Blacktown lost lively striker Adam Kwasnik to a red card, after a tirade of abusive language he had aimed at referee Alex Spiroski in the 50th minute, an incident that his coach Brian Brown later described as "very poor" discipline. But the Demons seemed to manage well enough following his departure.

Catanzaro came on around this time and began to spark the home side, but misses from Faria, who was denied by Vella, and right at the death a fruitless effort by Magill, meant that the point the Demons hoped to snatch would elude them.

A.P.I.A. got going again towards the end too, with Arambasic foiled by his own poor finishing and also by a superb tackle from Demons' defender Paul Karbon in the 74th minute.

A.P.I.A. coach Les De Celis was pleased with the performance, "If we had played like that eight weeks ago we would not be in the position we are in now," he said, "we always do well here and it was great to see the team playing to potential at last."

"I thought it was a very poor match," Demons coach Brian Brown said, "and it was embarrassing to be beaten by such a poor side. Our passing was shocking and they were not much better. The game was a terrible one to watch."

BLACKTOWN CITY DEMONS 0
A.P.I.A.-LEICHHARDT TIGERS 1
(Z Arambasic 39')
at Gabbie Stadium, Seven Hills

BLACKTOWN CITY DEMONS: John Crawley (C), Damien Foxe, Paul Karbon, Patrick Gatt, Stephen Kayes (Simon Catanzaro 54), Kane Rastall, Josh Maguire, Tony Faria, Luke Roodenburg, Adam Kwasnik, Dominic Magill (Bishara Stephan 84)
Sub not used: RGK Brody Crane, Brian Vanega and Jehan Loke
Coach: Brian Brown

A.P.I.A.-LEICHHARDT TIGERS: Stewart Vella, Paul Dee, David Barrett, Damon Langan (C), Robbie Hooker, Andrew Clark, Jeremy Brown, Paul Bilokapic, Norman Tome (Tony Alilovic 80), Zlatko Arambasic (Antony Tesoro 90), James Monie
Subs not used: RGK Luke Femia, John-Paul Boutros, Michael Galluzzo
Coach: Les de Celis
Referee: Alex Spiroski
Assistant Referees: Jose da Silva and Robert Warry
Fourth Official: Ernie Horvath
Red Card: Blacktown: Adam Kwasnik 50
Yellow Cards: Blacktown: Nil; A.P.I.A.-Leichhardt: James Monie 44

Suns humbled by the Saints

Rockdale City Suns	Ribarovski	1
St George Saints	Sydney Saints	3

By Paul Goodwin

The Saints walked over a poorly-organised Rockdale during their lay-over game from round 13 on Wednesday night.

Rockdale had their experienced pairing of Ante Moric, who missed the Bonnyrigg game through suspension and Ante Juric, who had also been away both back, but were missing keeper Peter Trajcevski, due to continuing problems with an injured knee.

Former Sydney Olympic attacking player Zenon Caravella was there as well to give them something extra out wide and had also missed the latest game.

Caravella would offer support to Peter Apolevski in providing a good supply of ball to front runners Harry James and Denis Alilovic.

Wide man, Tony Ju, was serving the third game of his four match suspension incurred at Belconnen and key link man, Ben Deighan, was missing again due to a recurring back problem that has seen him miss his last two matches.

Former St George keeper Trinity Allen was between the posts for the Suns in the absence of Trajcevski.

Despite a more positive outlook from the Rockdale camp, it was the Saints who managed to take a fifth minute lead when Stuart Young did well to get to the by-line and cut the ball back, low and hard for Daniel Watkins to tap in at the far post.

There were chances galore in the first-half, especially towards the end, when Apolevski was put through by Caravella; but the fleet-footed wingman skied his chance from right in front, while there was another header, this time from Caravella, that was well saved by Ricardo Patrizi.

Ante Deur and Watkins also forced good saves from Allen during the first-half and Allen was in sparkling form for the Suns.

Both keepers had superb games and stood out on a night that drew a large, vocal crowd to Seymour Shaw Park, a ground where 24-hours earlier a Super League match had been called off due to the state of the pitch.

It looked in perfect condition for this Premier League contest though and some good football was on display.

By the 59th minute Ante Deur had got his name on the scoresheet too, this time after the ball had been intercepted in the middle of the park.

Deur was able to finish the move off with a header at the far post after a cross from the left by Adrian Webster who had accepted a nice ball down the line from the very capable Young.

While he has yet to break his scoring duck for the Saints, Young was the provider for all three of the goals his side struck on the night and his contribution cannot be underestimated.

St George put the issue beyond doubt with a third goal from Webster in the 74th minute. In doing so they keep their iron-clad grip on the Premiership this season.

Young had tucked the ball back from wide, at the edge of the box, with a handy header over the exposed Richard Plesa, when Rockdale had initially lost possession in the midfield. Webster was able to finish with the minimum of fuss.

Rockdale dragged a goal back in the 79th minute from a free kick around the edge of the box after a foul by Deur on Caravella. Ante Moric was able to drive the ball in neatly that time, but earlier misses by his team mates had already put the game beyond the reach of his Suns' side.

Ivan Bosnar had hit a post late and Caravella, midway through the second-half, had seen his shot well saved by Patrizi.

In addition headers from Nick Orlic were well off target following Rockdale corners forced in a period of play when the ball was constantly moving from one end of the field to the other and both sides had their moments in front of goal.

It was mainly careless finishing by the Suns and some good keeping that kept the score in St George's favour throughout.

ROCKDALE CITY SUNS 1
(A Moric 79')
ST GEORGE SAINTS 3
(D Watkins 5', A Deur 59', A Webster 79')
at St George Stadium, Rockdale

ROCKDALE CITY SUNS: Trinity Allen, Joe Moric, Richard Plesa (C), Nick Orlic, Ante Juric, Ante Moric, Ivan Bosnar, Peter Apolevski (Kosta Miric 64), Zenon Caravella, Denis Alilovic (Goce Trposki 72), Harry James (Daniel Kukucka 69)
Subs not used: Safir Yildez
Coach: Ivan Petkovic

ST GEORGE SAINTS: Ricardo Patrizi, Simon Verrender, Dean Culina, Ante Deur, Mirko Jurilj, Ivan Zelic, Raphael Bove (Max Sevares 68), Adrian Webster (George Lagoudakis 77), Gabriel Mendez (C), Stuart Young (Bruno Beddoni 74), Daniel Watkins
Sub not used: Phil Weston (RGK), Kosta Lagoudakis
Coach: Manny Spanoudakis

Referee: Greg Leverton
Assistant Referees: Terry Goodhew and Marc Nemorin
Fourth Official : Keith Anderson
Yellow Cards: Rockdale City Suns: Nick Orlic 37; St George: Adrian Webster 48, Gabriel Mendez 60

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FIRST GRADE RESULTS & TABLES

(RESCHEDULED ROUND 13 FIXTURE)

Rockdale City Suns 1
(A Moric 79')
St George Saints 3
(D Watkins 5', A Deur 59', A Webster 75')

Blacktown City Demons 0
A.P.I.A.-Leichhardt Tigers 1
(Z Arambasic 39')

Penrith Panthers 1
(M McCaffery 17')
Bonnyrigg White Eagles 5
(A Burgess 20', 44', J Aschner 60', D Drca 80', V Tomasevic 91')

Belconnen Blue Devils 3
(D Macor 46', I Prenzoski 50', M Katz 56')
Central Coast United 1
(P Haynes 45')

Parramatta Eagles . . . . . .TBA
Sydney Crescent Star . . . . . .TBA

Canterbury-Marrickville 1
(M Cawley 40')
St George Saints 3
(A Deur 29', B Beddoni 62', S Young 90')

Bankstown City Lions . . . . . .TBA
Rockdale City Suns . . . . . .TBA

	P	W	D	L	F	A	D	Pts
St George Saints	18	14	2	2	40	18	22	44
Belconnen Blue Devils	18	12	3	3	39	21	18	39
Blacktown City Demons	18	9	2	7	36	24	12	29
Sydney Crescent Star	17	8	4	5	25	16	9	28
Bankstown City Lions	17	8	2	7	33	31	2	26
Penrith Panthers	18	8	2	8	21	32	-11	26
Bonnyrigg White Eagles	18	7	2	9	31	27	4	23
Rockdale City Suns	17	6	5	6	26	29	-3	23
A.P.I.A. Leichhardt Tigers	18	6	2	10	19	28	-9	20
Parramatta Eagles	17	4	5	8	24	28	-4	17
Central Coast United	18	4	2	12	20	42	-22	14
Canterbury Marrickville	18	3	3	12	21	39	-18	12

GRADE 20 RESULTS & TABLES

(RESCHEDULED ROUND 13 FIXTURE)

Rockdale City Suns 2
(C Jovcevski 1, E Rink 26')
St George Saints 1
(S Keramea 8')

Blacktown City Demons 1
(J Bugallo 88')
A.P.I.A.-Leichhardt Tigers 3
(R Restuccia 7', G De Lange 13', J Stubbs-Mills 32')

Penrith Panthers 2
(M Noro 7', unknown 15' og)
Bonnyrigg White Eagles 2
(D Malenica 65', D Drca 68')

Belconnen Blue Devils 0
Central Coast United 1
(A Cologna 92 (og)

Parramatta Eagles . . . . . .TBA
Sydney Crescent Star . . . . . .TBA

Canterbury-Marrickville 4
(A Amegashie 5', J Tsironis 18', 22', 44')
St George Saints 4
(Unknown 40', K Saterdag 65', V Milicevic 75', R Hooper 85')

Bankstown City Lions . . . . . .TBA
Rockdale City Suns . . . . . .TBA

	P	W	D	L	F	A	D	Pts
Parramatta Eagles	17	12	3	2	36	8	28	39
A.P.I.A. Leichhardt Tigers	18	12	3	3	37	16	21	39
Bonnyrigg White Eagles	18	10	5	3	40	24	16	35
Penrith Panthers	18	9	3	6	31	21	10	30
Blacktown City Demons	18	8	4	6	30	23	7	28
Belconnen Blue Devils	18	6	5	7	20	23	-3	23
Bankstown City Lions	17	5	5	7	17	33	-16	20
Canterbury Marrickville	18	5	4	9	30	41	-11	19
Central Coast United	18	3	7	8	23	31	-8	16
St George Saints	18	4	4	10	22	31	-9	16
Rockdale City Suns	17	3	5	9	19	42	-23	14
Sydney Crescent Star	17	3	4	10	19	31	-12	13

NEXT ROUND 19

FIRST GRADE

HOME TEAM		AWAY TEAM	DATE	KICK-OFF	GROUND
Bonnyrigg White Eagles	v	Parramatta Eagles	Sat. 17th April	7.00pm	Serbian Centre
St George Saints	v	Penrith Panthers	Sat. 17th April	7.00pm	St George Stadium
Central Coast United	v	Canterbury-Marrickville	Sat. 17th April	7.00pm	Pluim Park
Rockdale City Suns	v	Belconnen Blue Devils	Sat. 17th April	7.30pm	Seymour Shaw
A.P.I.A.-Leichhardt Tigers	v	Bankstown City Lions	Sun. 18th April	3.00pm	Lambert Park
Sydney Crescent Star	v	Blacktown City Demons	Sun. 18th April	3.00pm	Lidcombe Oval

GRADE 20

HOME TEAM		AWAY TEAM	DATE	KICK-OFF	GROUND
Bonnyrigg White Eagles	v	Parramatta Eagles	Sat. 17th April	5.00pm	Serbian Centre
St George Saints	v	Penrith Panthers	Sat. 17th April	5.00pm	St George Stadium
Central Coast United	v	Canterbury-Marrickville	Sat. 17th April	5.00pm	Pluim Park
Rockdale City Suns	v	Belconnen Blue Devils	Sat. 17th April	5.30pm	Seymour Shaw
A.P.I.A.-Leichhardt Tigers	v	Bankstown City Lions	Sun. 18th April	1.00pm	Lambert Park
Sydney Crescent Star	v	Blacktown City Demons	Sun. 18th April	1.00pm	Lidcombe Oval

LEADING GOALSCORERS

Saturday 10th April 2004

16	Ilija Prenzoski (BBD)
14	Matthew Borg (BCL)
11	Bruno Beddoni (SG)
9	Jason Connolly (PP), Daniel Macor (BBD)
8	Steve Karavatakis (CMO/RCS), Daniel Watkins (SG), Aaron Burgess (BWE)
7	Denis Alilovic (RCS)
6	Anthony Galliozzi (BBD), Nathan Byrn (CCU), Sean Babic (BCL), Luke Roodenburg (BCD), Dominic McGill (BCD), Filip Marzec (SCS), Peter Haynes (CCU)
5	Norman Tome (AL), Tony Ju (RCS), Sam Larocca (CMO/BWE), Ben Deighan (RCS),), Tolgay Ozbey (SCS), Ante Deur (SG), Jimmy Aschner (BWE)
4	Paul Urlovic (BCD), Ben Delicata (PE), Roger Galayini (PP), David Arranz (BBD), Tony Faria (BCD), George Nohra (BCL), Raphael Bove (SG), Zlatko Arambasic (ALT)

NSW PREMIER LEAGUE TIPPING COLUMN

PAUL GOODWIN
SOCCER NSW JOURNALIST
DRAW
DRAW
A.P.I.A. LEICHHARDT
BONNYRIGG
ROCKDALE
DRAW

Points = 39

TARYN ROCKALL
NSW SAPPHIRES CAPTAIN
BONNYRIGG
ST GEORGE
CENTRAL COAST
BELCONNEN
BANKSTOWN
DRAW

Points = 43

ANDY PASCHALIDIS
ELITE SPORTS TRAVEL
PARRAMATTA
ST GEORGE
CENTRAL COAST
BELCONNEN
A.P.I.A.
SYDNEY CRESCENT

Points = 46

GREG STOCK
SOCCER NSW JOURNALIST
BONNYRIGG
ST GEORGE
CENTRAL COAST
BELCONNEN
BANKSTOWN
BLACKTOWN CITY

Points = 47

'PEANUTS'
THE MONKEY
BONNYRIGG
ST GEORGE
CANTERBURY
BELCONNEN
BANKSTOWN
SYDNEY CRESCENT

Points = 44

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ROUND 19 PREVIEW

WITH PAUL GOODWIN & GREG STOCK

Bonnyrigg White Eagles vs Parramatta Eagles

Saturday 17th April at Serbian Centre
Kick-off 7.00pm First Grade / 5.00pm Grade 20

Having won five of their last seven games, Bonnyrigg have rocketed back into contention for the top five and get their chance to press their claims further when they host the Eagles.

After sinking to bottom spot on the table just prior to christmas, the White Eagles have inched their way forward, in no small part due to the recruitment of Vuko Tomasevic, Sam Larocca and Bradley Groves and the return to form of star striker Jimmy Aschner.

"It has been a long and gradual process for us as club," Larocca said, "when I first joined the team we were quite disjointed and struggled to play with any consistency, but the last six to eight weeks have been magic and we have really started to gel as a side and it has showed."

Having fought their way to seventh spot, mathematically Bonnyrigg will need to win at least three of their last four games to be half a chance. A win against Parramatta Eagles would be a must before they take on the three B's — Blacktown, Bankstown and Belconnen — in their final games.

"All of these games are tough," Larocca said "the Eagles are not an easy team, but we know if we can win three of the four we'll be a chance for the semi-finals and that wasn't something we even thought possible six weeks ago."

When these two sides met in the first round at Melita Stadium, it was the Eagles who beat Bonnyrigg 2-0. In 33 league meetings between these two sides, stretching way back to 1978, the record still remains convincingly in the Eagles keeping with 21 wins and five drawn games from 33 meetings.

St George Saints vs Penrith Panthers

Saturday 17th April at St George Stadium
Kick-Off 7.00pm First Grade / 5.00pm Grade 20

This is a tricky one for the Saints as Penrith have achieved some good results on this ground over the years and are more than capable of holding St George as they bid to make good the semi-finals spot they have worked long and hard all season to achieve.

We are likely to see another tight game as the league leaders attempt to wrap up the title with as few problems as possible.

Penrith had key striker and all round inspiration Jason Connolly sent off last week and his presence and influence cannot be underestimated.

The Saints, by contrast, has an abundance of riches with the luxury of being able to use either Daniel Watkins or Bruno Beddoni as substitute in support of Stuart Young.

It is hard to see the Saints slipping up at this late stage, but with qualification for the end of season fixtures now mathematically assured - and a tidy cushion at the top - it is likely that, if anything, Penrith will be the more motivated of the two sides.

Last time the sides met at Cook Park Peter Bennett was sent off before the game was half over and yet the Saints managed to squander a two goal lead to draw 2-2.

The Panthers will hope to have Roger Galayini back for this one since Connolly will be badly missed and it is likely that Danny Hinton will be around for the rest of the season now to support him. Adam Anderson, who has been a shade disappointing, will also come into calculations for a berth up front

For this match the Penrith side will also have to do without their experienced players Peter Bennett, Jason Connolly and Daniel McCann all out due to suspension.

Rockdale City Suns vs Belconnen Blue Devils

Saturday 17th April at Seymour Shaw
Kick-Off 7.30pm First Grade / 5.30pm Grade 20

Another game with a real bearing on the top five, the enigmatic Suns hosting the tough-as-nails Blue Devils.

While the Saints remain five points clear at the top of the competition table, the Blue Devils continue to apply the pressure, having won their last six on end to remain in touch.

From their remaining four games, they will need to win all four and rely on other results to hope the Saints can drop points in the last few rounds which might allow them to sneak in and steal the minor premiership.

The Suns on the other hand remain one of four sides fighting for the one semi-final spot. After sitting as high as third, Rockdale have gone off the boil over the last six weeks and have won just one of their last seven games.

Wednesday's rescheduled round 13 match against the Saints can't have helped team morale, as the 2004 powerhouse of St George made a meal of the Rockdale side.

In the next few weeks Rockdale's chances for a semi-finals berth will be decided, and as difficult as it may seem, Belconnen will have to be their first scalp.

Their run home also includes games against Central Coast, A.P.I.A.-Leichhardt and Sydney Crescent Star which should see them capable of posting three wins from their last four games and making a reasonable fist of their season.

In three league meetings between these two teams, the standings remain even with one win and a draw each. When they met at McKellar in round one, Rockdale inflicted their only home loss of the season on the Blue Devils by the convincing margin of 3 goals to one.

Central Coast United vs Canterbury-Marrickville

Saturday 17th April at Pluim Park
Kick-Off 7.00pm First Grade / 5.00pm Grade 20

This is the ultimate relegation dogfight and neither side can afford to lose, least of all the Berries.

With the Coast's home form ordinary to say the least Canterbury will fancy their chances here and will also believe that being so close on the ladder should make the sides evenly matched.

The locals have been struggling to find their scoring shoes at home especially but seem to have done better with their defensive work on their travels.

They gave Belconnen a bit of a fright by scoring first last Sunday and should be able to account for the Berries who battled away against St George but were unable to hold back the tide of experience and class to eventually go down fighting, 3-1.

There was nothing wrong with the Coast side's effort against the Blue Devils in Canberra last weekend. They fought hard and Peter Haynes had a strong game, capped with a fine goal, the first of the match and one that gave heart to the visitors that day. They were sunk by three goals in a ten minute period that broke their hearts.

The Berries by contrast were at home last week and emerged with yet another loss, albeit against one of the big guns. The motivation is certainly there for both sides to perform in this match, with the travelling side keenest to claim the full three points.

The Coast would settle for one to keep off the bottom but for the Berries it is a must win match.

Steve Karavatakis may well choose this game to net a few more goals for his side and elevate himself into a position where he may yet challenge for the Golden Boot.

That is clearly his incentive here.

A.P.I.A.-Leichhardt Tigers vs Bankstown City Lions

Sunday 18th April at Lambert Park
Kick-Off 3.00pm First Grade / 1.00pm Grade 20

A.P.I.A. needs to win a few more to get in the right frame of mind and gather confidence prior to their Continental Tyres Cup semi-final on this ground in ten days' time.

Bankstown, by contrast, is still hopeful of making the semi-finals of the league itself, a position the locals long ago gave up any hope of reaching.

A.P.I.A. in defeating Blacktown by the slender margin of one goal did enough to suggest that they could be on the way back.

The Tigers' new defensive and midfield formations was shown at the Gabbie and the side could well make life hard for the Lions at Lambert Park on Sunday.

The visitors met Rockdale after press-time, but Bankstown would still have been well in the hunt for the semi-finals no matter how they fared and a win here would be an absolute must.

A.P.I.A. are missing Robbie Stanton and Jimmy Nikas who may not be risked due to a hamstring tear. They will be looking for a positive result to conclude what has been one of their most disappointing seasons.

The big names will want to perform here to bring down the curtain of football at Lambert Park for one more season, though there is still the Cup semi-final to come.

Bankstown were without the suspended Sean Babic for their latest game on Easter Monday, but otherwise should be at full-strength.

The Lions are still anxious to keep the likes of Bonnyrigg at bay and a win here is essential if they are to do that as the White Eagles, who meet A.P.I.A. next week, are on fire right now.

Sydney Crescent Star vs Blacktown City Demons

Sunday 18th April at Lidcombe Oval
Kick-Off 3.00pm First Grade / 1.00pm Grade 20

With both sides engaged in a cut-throat battle for a top-three spot, the victor could well come from the winner of this week's meeting.

Neither side will fancy the other possibility of dropping any further points which could see them slip back into the battle for fifth spot with a logjam of four clubs all breathing down their necks from positions fifth through to eighth.

Blacktown may not have been at their best last weekend against A.P.I.A.-Leichhardt, but with a long injury list at Gabbie Stadium the Demons struggled for their usual consistency, and they'll need to improve in that area if they are to trouble the home side.

After winning three straight games, their last three have been ordinary with just one draw and two losses while their opponents have remained unbeaten over their last seven games going into their match-up with the Eagles last weekend.

The key to this game undoubtedly lies with Blacktown City. If they can hold their shape and press Crescent Star defensively they could well sneak a result.

Crescent Star play a very effective counter-attack style of game plan where they sit back and defend, and when they effect a turnover they race forward quickly in numbers, a move which can catch any side napping.

Coach Brian Brown is no fool and having seen Crescent Star in action over the past month knows only too well his team need to remain composed and hold their shape at all times to get a result here.

In their first and only league, Blacktown City defeated Sydney Crescent Star by the narrowest of margins, 1-0 at Gabbie Stadium.

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Ryde, Tigers fight Easter battle at mighty Magdala

Ryde City Gunners came up against neighbours Northern Tigers in a round six Super League blockbuster.

One of the most entertaining games of Super League football was played out in front of a sizeable crowd on the hill, standing room only for some, all of whom were enthralled for fully ninety minutes as the teams fought out an exciting 2-2 draw.

Ryde looked far more stylish and cohesive than they had in their previous outing at Dulwich Hill and took the game to their neighbours. The Tigers, for their own part, created a host of chances and simply failed to convert them.

The home side was able to get in front in the first-half and then stretch their lead three minutes after the restart. With the wind at their backs in the second period the Tigers managed to pull both goals back and the game finished with both sides striving tirelessly for the winner.

A good piece of determination led to the first goal of the game being scored by Ryde City in the 21st minute.

A ball that appeared to be going out for a throw was retrieved by the persistence and anticipation of Steve Baveas and then fed to Oliver Skelding, who got to the left by-line very smartly.

Before the Tigers could recover from losing the ball initially, the ball was crossed in and there was the tall figure of Damien Pisano to finish things off at the far post.

The Northern Tigers team had countless first-half opportunities to make good that goal, but a shot from the speedy Matt Hunter was headed off the Ryde line by Jamie Jackson and then put over the bar by former Northern Spirit youth player Erik Paartalu.

Also the same two players went close with further efforts, but Ryde too had a great chance to extend their lead in the 28th minute when Skelding nodded one on for Pisano only for Steve Angelov to produce a text-book save.

Three minutes after the restart the Gunners stretched their lead. Pisano intercepted a stray pass from Van Wyk and pushed the ball on for Skelding who was able to spring the offside trap and score with a very cool finish.

Pisano also went down in the box in the 51st, but referee, Nick Asargiotis, was unimpressed and penalty appeals were immediately waved away.

The Tigers did not look beaten though, and stuck to their game-plan with the result that they scored twice and spectators had a very enjoyable second-half to watch.

In the 49th minute a Northern Tigers' free-kick was taken quickly and the ball was played by Paartalu, in the path of Tom Mikulski who struck clinically from 15-yards out.

There was plenty of reason to celebrate again three minutes later, when the same player was able to deliver his side a second goal. An unfortunate handball by Ryde's Callum Brown led to a free - kick for the Tigers on the right-hand edge of the box.

The ball was played in nicely to Paartalu by Michael Mouyes, then stuck away by Mikulski, after a nice nod-on from Paartalu, to bring whoops of joy from the Tigers' bench.

Chances continued to fall to both sides but neither could get the better of two skilled goal-keepers and some disciplined defending; Pisano missed a couple of close range chances towards the end of a thrilling contest.

Stanmore Hawks were due to meet Sutherland Sharks at Arlington Oval which had been out of action for some time, with both clubs using the ground and taking their matches to Henson Park in the meantime.

It would seem that the Hawks may have returned to the Constitution Road ground somewhat prematurely. Sadly, the ground was still not ready for the game and it had to be called off, leaving Sutherland with two of their first half-dozen games still to make up. It also put Stanmore behind in their quest for a solid start to the season.

The games continued on Sunday with Sydney University meeting Fraser Park at Sydney University Oval, the first game there for the students who had played all their games away up until then and only been beaten once, 1-0 at Macarthur three weeks earlier.

A planned catch-up game with Sutherland at Seymour Shaw Park was called off the previous Tuesday much to the surprise of many in the area. It will now be played there on Wednesday of this week instead.

Like the Saturday afternoon game at Magdala Oval this one at the University finished up as a 2-2 draw but, like the Ryde-Tigers game, it was by no means a drab affair.

Fraser Park arrived for the game without star striker Tanju Balabanel, who had missed training during the week, but they still managed to surprise the students with an early goal.

Scott Dixon got away down the left touch-line and got over a ball that looked like a shot that might be going wide, so firmly was it struck; but in the goalmouth the alert Andrew Mailer stuck out a boot and deflected the ball past a wrong-footed James Meyer and the home side had work to do.

They busied themselves for their task and looked very capable after that fifth-minute setback, a formidable strike-force including Rob Smithies and former New Zealand youth international Peter Satos offering plenty of options.

After Smithies had hastily put his shot wide in the 10th minute Mailer almost grabbed a second for the Dragons, his far post effort from a nice looking cross from the left by Zia Younan being booted off the line by Meyer.

Then one of the visitors' best players on the day Clint Mayberry turned very smartly in the box in the 25th only to find the side netting.

The energetic Tim Wilson burst into the Fraser penalty area wide on the left by-line only to be the victim of a late tackle from Michael Kladis which referee Srebre Delovski saw instantly and pointed to the spot.

Smithies expertly sent Jason Holmes the wrong way, finding the top right corner of the net in fine style.

In the 49th minute Daisuke Nakayama won the ball well on the left and it was then played down the line by Brad Wiblen who found Smithies well.

The club skipper put over a perfect first-time cross that was met first bounce in the box, by Satos with a wonderful volley that Holmes had no chance of saving.

Holmes then made the save of the game in the 55th to deny Nakayama - whose volley looked just as goalbound as the effort from Satos had done - and that could have been just enough to keep Fraser in the game and gather strength to battle back for the point.

Satos and Luke McDougall had all gone close for the students, but lifted by substitute, David O'Han and still full of running, Fraser managed to drag back the goal they needed to force a draw and remain top of the table.

O'Han was unmarked as Mayberry sent over a well flighted cross from the right by-line in the 85th minute and the points were shared.

University could have snatched a late winner in stoppage time but substitute Tyrone Lara angled his shot wide from the left of the area after good lead-up work from Andy Christie and Smithies.

MSC Liverpool Fairfield Bulls were in action at Hammondville Oval the same day.

This was one that could have gone either way but remained scoreless after the first-half when the Bulls showed their impatience to score by hitting shots well wide of the target when well placed.

Instead it was the locals who managed to get their noses in front in the 53rd minute. Eric Williams got the ball over nicely from the flank and this enabled Ben Realph to finish powerfully inside the box. The MSC joy was short-lived, however, as Fairfield found an equaliser inside a minute.

Once again it was man-of-the-moment Nenos Bobo who produced a superb individual effort to give his side the goal that kept them in the game.

They continued to push for the winner but it was not until the 80th minute that it arrived when skipper and ace midfielder, Johnny Ghisso, got on the end of a good team move that involved multiple passes and allowed him to find the top-left corner of the net from close range.

Hurstville City Minotaurs returned to Rockdale Soccer Centre where the well performing Macarthur Rams were ready to do battle. The home side raced to a 2-0 lead thanks to a brace from highly promising youngster, Marino Musemici.

With several players unavailable Minotaurs' coach, Peter Sarikakis, had to ask one player to back up from the Grade 20 match and another to replace him at half-time.

The Rams came back strongly to level at 2-2 and eventually went to the lead from a penalty that the locals felt was harshly given.

18-year-old former Parramatta Power youth player Musemici struck in the 9th and again in the 18th minute. Gary Seymour was first to respond for the Rams in the 20th and then Richard Harrison put his side level.

In the 51st minute came the penalty, also put away by Seymour, to have the Rams looking at a possible competition lead overnight, but the Minotaurs had other ideas.

The Minotaurs clawed their way back to snatch an equaliser from Chris Demetriou in the 78th and claim a point, a brave effort indeed and ensuring that only one of the weekend's round of matches was to finish decisively, other than the two games yet to be staged.

*Easter Monday games, which will be covered next week, were those involving Hurstville ZSC and Dulwich Hill, plus Hajduk Wanderers and Manly Warringah Dolphins.

*Manly coach Phil Moss, a former Fraser Park player, was caught observing at the Sydney University game, no doubt hoping the Dragons did no better than collect the single point they ultimately managed, thus making the Dolphins task a little easier as they attempt to catch the leaders as soon as possible.

WINTER SUPER LEAGUE - RESCHEDULED FIXTURE - ROUND 1:

FIRST GRADE: Sutherland Shire Sharks vs Sydney University Washed Out.

GRADE 20: Sutherland Shire Sharks vs Sydney University Washed Out.

ROUND 6:

FIRST GRADE: Ryde City 2 (D Pisano 20m O Skelding 49m) Northern Tigers 2 (T Mikulski 51/54m), Stanmore Hawks vs Sutherland Shire Sharks Postponed.

GRADE 20: Ryde City 1 Northern Tigers 3, Stanmore Hawks vs Sutherland Shire Sharks Postponed.

STATE LEAGUE DIVISION ONE - RD 6:

FIRST GRADE: Bathurst 75 0 Nepean Association 6 (S Erel 2/32/82m S Mort 15m G Orcajo 50m/87m pen), The Wanderers 4 (J Hurtado Pachec 55m M Hurtado Pachec 61m J Novosadek 81m K Codmani 91m) Belmore Hercules 1 (T Basha 79m), Mt Pritchard 4 (M Severino 23/88m M Maco 39m D Severino 80m) Fairfield City Lions 1 (A Zmire 35m), Liverpool Bossy 3 (L Carle 57/89m S Nicola 87m) White City 5 (A Asanovic 15/63/65m R Mandic 39m S Djuric 68m), Wollongong United 5 (R Todorovski x 3 Own Goal H Jomaa) Camden Tigers 0, Western Rage 1 (G Wakim 63m) Hills United 0, Schofields Scorpions 4 (H Merdanovic 9m M Mijas 37/45m A Ucchino 90m) Mt Druitt Town Rangers 3 (S Platt 54m M Mutch 83m A Azzopardi 88m).

GRADE 20: Bathurst 75 2 Nepean Association 3, The Wanderers 3 Belmore Hercules 0, Mt Pritchard 2 Fairfield City Lions 2, Liverpool Bossy 1 White City 6, Wollongong United 1 Camden Tigers 5, Western Rage 3 Hills United 2, Schofields Scorpions 3 Mt Druitt Town Rangers 2.

PREMIER YOUTH LEAGUE - ROUND 6:

GRADE 13: Macarthur Rams 0 Blacktown City Demons 8, Sydney Olympic 2 Newcastle United 2, Parramatta Eagles 4 Marconi Stallions 0, Sydney United 2 Central Coast United 0, Gladesville Spirit SC 5 Wollongong Wolves 2, Sutherland Shire Sharks 0 Bankstown City Cubs 2, APIA Leichhardt Tigers 1 Hajduk Wanderers Utd 0.

GRADE 14: Macarthur Rams 0 Blacktown City Demons 2, Sydney Olympic 2 Newcastle United 0, Parramatta Eagles 1 Marconi Stallions 2, Sydney United 0 Central Coast United 0, Gladesville Spirit SC 3 Wollongong Wolves 0, Sutherland Shire Sharks 0 Bankstown City Cubs 0, APIA Leichhardt Tigers 0 Hajduk Wanderers Utd 0.

GRADE 15: Macarthur Rams 1 Blacktown City Demons 3, Sydney Olympic 2 Newcastle United 1, Parramatta Eagles 0 Marconi Stallions 1, Sydney United 0 Central Coast United 2, Gladesville Spirit SC 2 Wollongong Wolves 0, Sutherland Shire Sharks 1 Bankstown City Cubs 1, APIA Leichhardt Tigers 1 Hajduk Wanderers Utd 0.

GRADE 16: Macarthur Rams 1 Blacktown City Demons 1, Sydney Olympic 1 Newcastle United 0, Parramatta Eagles 3 Marconi Stallions 1, Sydney United 2 Central Coast United 0, Gladesville Spirit SC 1 Wollongong Wolves 0, Sutherland Shire Sharks 1 Bankstown City Cubs 1, APIA Leichhardt Tigers 3 Hajduk Wanderers Utd 0.

GRADE 18: Macarthur Rams 1 Blacktown City Demons 5, Sydney Olympic 1 Newcastle United 2, Parramatta Eagles 3 Marconi Stallions 1, Sydney United 2 Central Coast United 2, Sutherland Shire Sharks 3 Bankstown City Cubs 1, APIA Leichhardt Tigers 0 Hajduk Wanderers Utd 3.

For the latest tables and results go to www.soccernsw.com.au/comps

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PREMIER LEAGUE TEAM OF THE WEEK

GOALKEEPER:

Chad Taylor (Penrith Panthers) – Must have felt like a duck at a shooting gallery as the White Eagles forward ran riot, but threw himself at everything to deny them at least five or six more.

DEFENDERS:

Elliot Zwangobani (Belconnen Blue Devils) – Another standout performance from Zwangobani kept a tight rein on the Central Coast forwards

Mirko Jurilj (St. George) – After showing so much potential, Jurilj finally delivered this week, pushing forward from defence where he linked up with Gabriel Mendez to give the Berries a painful evening

Patrick Gatt (Blacktown City) – Was solid throughout - despite getting a good workout from the A.P.I.A.-Leichhardt forwards

Devrim Huseyin (Bonnyrigg White Eagles) – Solid at the back, he showed his attacking side by sliding down the left-hand touchline to help set up countless chances for his team

MIDFIELDERS:

Michael Katz (Belconnen Blue Devils) – Got forward well and was a constant menace to the Coasties defence with his incisive runs

Norman Tome (A.P.I.A.-Leichhardt) – Worked in well with Andrew Clark down the left side of the midfield causing the Demons problems with his speed

Andrew Clark (A.P.I.A.-Leichhardt) – His new role in left midfield showed just how adaptable 'Clarkey' can be, as he played his usual exemplary game

Sam Larocca (Bonnyrigg White Eagles) – At his creative best, laying on chances thick and fast for his team mates as they took the ten-man Panthers apart in the second-half

STRIKERS:

Peter Haynes (Central Coast) – Worked himself to an absolute standstill, scoring one goal and giving his side a much-needed target-man on the forward line.

Jimmy Aschner (Bonnyrigg White Eagles) – After struggling to find his feet since returning from the US, Aschner put his best foot forward this week, scoring his customary goal and laying on another for his partner Burgess in an excellent return to top form.

COACH:

Gordon Brown (Bonnyrigg White Eagles) – Has his side back in contention as a slim hope for the semi-finals after taking apart Penrith 5-1 The White Eagles have lost just one of their past four and are once again playing an attractive brand of attacking football.

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Continental Semi-Finals

The Gabbie Stadium and Lambert Park will host the semi-final fixtures of the 2004 Continental Tyres Cup. This announcement was made after Henk Van Diggele, Continental Tyres National Sales Manager drew the venues at a function held at Valentine Sports Park.

As a result of the draw, the Blacktown City Demons will face Sydney Crescent Star at the Gabbie Stadium and the A.P.I.A.-Leichhardt Tigers will host the Bonnyrigg White Eagles at Lambert Park on Wednesday the 28th of April with both fixtures scheduled to kick-off at 7:30pm.

Speaking at the event, Henk Van Diggele was extremely pleased with the success of the inaugural Continental Tyres Cup competition,

"Just from attending the earlier rounds and speaking to supporters, it is evident that people are becoming more aware of Continental Tyres.

"The competition has been well supported by clubs and spectators, and Continental Tyres is looking to work with Soccer NSW to improve the competition for next year.

All Soccer supporters are reminded that in conjunction with this year's cup competition, fans who purchase four Continental tyres (until 30 April, 2004) will receive a free double pass to any 2004 Continental Tyres Cup fixture (excl semi-final & finals) and will also go in the draw to win a trip for two to the 2006 FIFA World Cup in Germany.

The drawing of the venues was performed by Henk Van Diggele, Continental Tyres National Sales Manager (center) and observed by Greg McGriskin, Soccer NSW - Council of Clubs Competition Secretary (left), Adam Mark Soccer NSW - Marketing and Sponsorship Manager (right) and Kyle Patterson Soccer NSW - Media and Communications Manager (second from left)

GRADE 12 CENTENARY CUP 2004 COUNCIL OF ASSOCIATIONS

VENUE: ***LADY CUTLER GROUNDS, BLIGH ST, DUBBO***

TOURNAMENT MANAGER: ***JIM AULD. 6882.5665***

DATES: ***13th, 14th, 15th, 16th, APRIL 2004***

Round 1 ***Tuesday 13th April 2004***

10.00am	Illawarra	V	BYE	Group/A
10.00am	Sutherland	V	Ku-Ring-Gai	Group/B
10.00am	Albury	V	Tasmania	Group/C
11.30am	Western Branch	V	Orange	Group/A
11.30am	BYE	V	Southern Branch	Group/B
11.30am	Bankstown	V	Central Coast	Group/C
1.00pm	BYE	V	Granville	Group/A
1.00pm	Ku-Ring-Gai	V	Dubbo	Group/B
1.00pm	Tasmania	V	Nepean	Group/C
2.30pm	Orange	V	Illawarra	Group/A
2.30pm	Southern Branch	V	Sutherland	Group/B
2.30pm	Central Coast	V	Albury	Group/C

Round 2 ***Wednesday 14th April 2004***

9.00am	Western Branch	V	Granville	Group/A
9.00am	BYE	V	Dubbo	Group/B
9.00am	Bankstown	V	Nepean	Group/C
10.30am	Orange	V	BYE	Group/A
10.30am	Southern Branch	V	Ku-Ring-Gai	Group/B
10.30am	Central Coast	V	Tasmania	Group/C
12.00pm	REST BREAK			
1.00pm	Granville	V	Illawarra	Group/A
1.00pm	Dubbo	V	Sutherland	Group/B
1.00pm	Nepean	V	Albury	Group/C
2.30pm	BYE	V	Western Branch	Group/A
2.30pm	Ku-Ring-Gai	V	BYE	Group/B
2.30pm	Tasmania	V	Bankstown	Group/C

Round 3 ***Thursday 15th April 2004***

9.00am	Western Branch	V	Illawarra	Group/A
9.00am	BYE	V	Sutherland	Group/B
9.00am	Bankstown	V	Albury	Group/C
10.30am	Granville	V	Orange	Group/A
10.30am	Dubbo	V	Southern Branch	Group/B
10.30am	Nepean	V	Central Coast	Group/C

FIRST ROUND OF FINAL SERIES.TOP TEAM FROM EACH GROUP.

2.00pm Winner Group A V Winner Group C

Finals ***Friday 16th April 2004***

9.00am Winner Group B V Winner Group A

1.00pm Winner Group C V Winner Group B

PRESENTATIONS 3.00PM

2004 Girls Under 14 Friendship Games

Soccer NSW is proud to host the 2004 Under 14 Friendship Games for Girls at Valentine Sports Park, the home of soccer in New South Wales from the 12th of April to the 17th of April.

This year's tournament will include teams from Northern NSW, South Australia, Victoria, Western Australia, NSW Metropolitan, NSW Country and the Sacramento United Spitfire Team, from the United States of America.

The focus of this tournament is on participation rather than competition. It is an opportunity for elite youth female soccer players to test themselves against their peers without the burden of results and points-table position hanging over their shoulders.

THE DRAW

12th April 2004 *Ground 1*

9:00 am	NSW Metropolitan	V	Sacramento
10:30 am	Western Australia	V	Northern NSW
12:00 pm	NSW Country	V	Victoria
	South Australia		Bye

13th April 2004 *Ground 2*

1:30 pm	NSW Metropolitan	V	South Australia
3:00 pm	Northern NSW	V	Sacramento
4:30 pm	Western Australia	V	NSW Country
	Victoria		Bye

14th April 2004 *Ground 1*

5:00 pm	NSW Country	V	NSW Metropolitan
6:30 pm	Western Australia	V	Victoria
8:00 pm	S. A.	V	Sacramento
	Northern NSW		Bye

15th April 2004 *Ground 2*

1:30 pm	Victoria	V	Sacramento
3:00 pm	Northern NSW	V	South Australia
4:30 pm	NSW Metropolitan	V	Western Australia
	NSW Country		Bye

16th April 2004 *Ground 1*

9:00 am	Western Australia	V	Sacramento
10:30 am	NSW Country	V	South Australia
12:00 pm	Victoria	V	Northern NSW
	NSW Metropolitan		Bye

17th April 2004 *Ground 2*

9:00 am	Victoria	V	South Australia
10:30 am	NSW Country	V	Sacramento
12:00 pm	NSW Metropolitan	V	Northern NSW
	Western Australia		Bye

Victoria

1. Sarah Adolf
2. Danielle Aflalu
3. Stephanie Apostolidis
4. Braidee Bell
5. Stephania Cola
6. Angela De Boer
7. Holly Dimstas
8. Genia Dolmatova
9. Carlee Frankel
10. Ashlee Good
11. Julia Mcgrath
12. Christie Parton
13. Chloe Poole
14. Anna Santamaria
15. Rachel Stariha
16. Christie Tangalos
17. Jessie Theobald
18. Sarah White

Coach **Phillip Ware**
Manager **Anne Ford**

Western Australia

1. Rebecca Tittering
2. Coral Lapsley
3. Lillie Billson
4. Jennifer Chantler
5. Leigh Kelly
6. Elise O'sullivan
7. Emilie Williams
8. Jiami Carly
9. Nicola Diamond
10. Shani Lynch
11. Alycia Panayotou
12. Danielle Calautti
13. Ella Mastrantonio
14. Lyndsey Valentine
15. Shannon May
16. Chloe Coghlan

Coach **Salv Todaro**
Manager **Anna Buckley**

Soccer NSW welcomes the Sacramento United Spitfire Team from the United States of America

2. Cassie Rodriguez
3. Camile Cholger
4. Maddison Mcevilly
8. Ashley Purkins
9. Gabby Romero
10. Justine Oehler
12. Erica Havey
13. Victoria Ramirez
16. Aubrey Mapes
21. Lexi Redding
23. Rachel Uda
24. Melissa Mckenzie
27. Thea Cunningham

Coach: **Damien Harley**
Manager: **Tami Cholger**

Northern NSW

1. Abbie (Gk) Snow
2. Heidi Francis
3. Rachel Crichton
4. Gypsy Hechti
5. Jessica Woolfe
6. Libby Sharpe
7. Jodie Mcwhirter
8. Melissa Redmond
9. Sophie Towner
10. Oxley Gosling
11. Danielle Buttsworth
12. Kirra Weingarth
13. Kimberley Witt
14. Erin Wilson
15. Katelyn Davey
16. Kaycee Bellamy

Coach **Alison Fazzolari**
Manager **Marilyn Klaassen**
Trainer **Sherrin Boogaard**

South Australia

1. Hayley Trskenycz
2. Ebony Weidenbach (C)
3. Carly Gregor
4. Emma Hurley
5. Melissa Plant
6. Hannah Connell
7. Annabelle Tigani
8. Emma Campbell
9. Hannah (Vc) Sunasky
10. Christie Hillyer
11. Tessa Anderson
12. Stacey Sasopoulos (VC)
13. Leana Mulyono
14. Olivia Butler
15. Jamilla Hull
16. Jessica Walkden

Head Coach Bill Davidson
Asst Coach Rebecca Morrison
Manager Jo-Marie Elliss
Trainer Michelle Oulianoff

NSW Metropolitan

1. Shannon Heath
2. Rebecca Hartley
3. Stephanie Hunt
4. Louise Neville
5. Jessica Seaman
6. Alisha Hill
7. Kathryn Pryer
8. Renee Sorridimi
9. Heidi Van Weeren
10. Madeliene Collins
11. Teresa Polias
12. Rose-Marie Scarlato
13. Kyah Simon
14. Kirstyn Pearce
15. Chanel Turner

Coach **Lisa Warrener**
Manager **Louise Burns**

NSW Country

1. Candace Lim
2. Elle Crowe
3. Hayley Abbott
4. Erin Markwick
5. Simone Perrin
6. Emma Dunbar
7. Shannon Waine
8. Karen Clarke
9. Savannah Holliday
10. Laura Foley
11. Chrissie West
12. Tegan Mcnamara
13. Kirri Bolton
14. Sally Fitzgibbon
15. Karina Roweth
16. Aimee Davis

Coach **Stephen Roche**
Manager **Kahrina Dorczak**
Trainer **Jodi Bruce**

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Power Wash out

by Carlos Furtado